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THE LATE SESSION.

NOT only is the late wearisome and unprofitable session brought to a close, but most people will be disinclined to hear more about it. It began in February—if, indeed, it began then—with vague promises of a few measures made by Ministers and not by the Crown; and of these the majority have fallen through, owing as much to the indecision and bad management of the Government, and the indifference of the House of Commons, as to the obstructionist tactics of the Home Rule members. Not the least remarkable feature of the session was the apathy or subserviency of the Upper House. The measure which encountered the greatest resistance in the Commons, and occupied their attention for two hundred hours—the Army Discipline Bill—was passed almost *sub silentio* by the Lords, occupying only two hours. So it was with other bills. The peers have almost abandoned their prerogative of co-ordinate legislation during the session, and have been simply a body to register the decrees of the Lower House, or rather of the Ministers who rule both assemblies. To suit official exigencies, it seems probable that another session of the present Parliament will be held. But if the country could be polled, the decision would probably be in accordance with the view expressed by Mr. Mundella at Sheffield on Monday, that the dissolution should take place as speedily as possible.

The Prorogation Speech, as might be expected, takes note only of work done, and makes the most of it. Ministers are careful not to record their failures. They do not tell of their inability to obtain Parliamentary sanction to the new Criminal Code; of the breakdown of the Bankruptcy Bill, so urgently required in the interests of the mercantile community; of the disappearance of their County Boards Bill, a make-believe measure which went out of existence amid the contempt of all parties; and of the withdrawal of the Valuation Bill, for the third time in as many sessions. In the Queen's Speech a great parade is made of the passing of the Army Discipline Bill, which embodies in a complete code the laws relating to the military forces. The discussion of this measure, though very protracted, was of essential service. Some of its harsher provisions were expunged or modified, and the scandal of the flogging system considerably abated. Although Lord Hartington did not carry the whole of his party with him in his bold motion for abolishing corporal punishment in the army, he achieved a moral victory. The abolition of the lash is, as Lord Derby says, only a question of time. The

Government at the last moment managed to get through their equivocal Public Loans Bill, and a fragment of their legislative proposal relative to banking and joint-stock companies. But with one striking exception, they failed to make any advance with their bills for remedying local evils in Scotland and Ireland.

That exception was the Irish University Bill, with the history and scope of which our readers are familiar. Early in the session the Government abandoned in despair the task of dealing with this problem, and only when The O'Connor Don, and the debates on his proposal, had placed them in a position of great embarrassment, did they take the question in hand. Even then they evaded responsibility by introducing a skeleton measure in the Lords, which only received some measure of form and substance when it came down to the Commons. The new Act merges the Queen's University into the Royal University, which will be empowered to grant degrees and prizes to non-resident as well as resident students. It is still a tentative measure. A Senate has yet to be appointed, which has almost *carte blanche* to devise a scheme of education, scholarships, etc., to be defrayed by Parliamentary grants. This governing body, if guided by the prevalent tone of feeling in Parliament as well as by the instructions laid down in the bill, will devise a plan which will covertly endorse the principle of "result fees" in aid of denominational colleges. The Government indeed have already sanctioned this course by describing the measure in the Queen's speech as "a fitting supplement to the enactment of last session as to intermediate education," of which the provision for result fees was the prominent feature. The Irish University Bill, thus altered, was acquiesced in by the Roman Catholic hierarchy and the Home Rulers. From the time when this particular bill became safe, Irish obstruction ceased to be active, and its hand was further paralysed by the measure setting apart 1,300,000*l.* out of the Irish Church surplus to provide pensions for Irish National School teachers.

Of other ecclesiastical measures which to some extent occupied the attention of Parliament it is not needful to say much. The session opened with half-a-dozen proposals to deal with the long-lived Burials difficulty. Mr. Osborne Morgan did not succeed in securing a place by the usual ballot, and did not therefore proceed with his bill; but he announced his intention of supporting Mr. Balfour's more restricted proposal on the second reading, with the view of amending it in committee. That measure, opposed by the Government, was talked out, and disappeared. Mr. Monk's bill for creating "a Dissenters' corner" in churchyards was thrown out, notwithstanding the support of the Government, by 160 to 129 votes. Mr. Ritchie's proposal, which aimed to give the incumbent the option of allowing other burial services than that of the Established Church, was never discussed. Mr. Wilbraham Egerton was equally unsuccessful with his Additional Burial Grounds Bill. Then came the turn of Mr. Marten, who dodged his little bill through the Commons, and by the aid of the Government it was carried through the Lords, spite of the protest of Earl Granville and other peers. This act allows the creation of new cemeteries—whether needed or not, and without the safeguards of the Burial Acts—by means of the "local authority," which may be compelled to take action by the Local Government Board. The main question has not, therefore, been fully discussed this session, but

should the Liberals come into power as the result of the general election, it will no doubt be settled on the lines laid down in Mr. Osborne Morgan's bill.

Though no recorded results, except in one instance, appear in the Prorogation Speech, the bills and motions of private members were well discussed. There was the annual debate on Mr. Trevelyan's County Franchise Bill, which was rejected by a larger majority than in the preceding year. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, by substituting a "local option" resolution for his Permissive Bill, got a larger following, and the temperance cause has been considerably strengthened by the report of the Lords' Committee on the subject. The usual motions on public questions of minor importance came on in due course. That of Mr. Chaplin, for the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into agricultural depression, was accepted by the Government, and its appointment is paraded in a separate paragraph of the Queen's Speech. This monster inquiry will no doubt bring together a vast body of information which will probably be given to the world when agriculture has revived.

Foreign and colonial affairs have occupied a good deal, though not an inordinate share, of the attention of Parliament. The session began (in December) with a debate on the Afghan war, and ended with a discussion on the same subject, terminating with a count-out. At the earliest sittings the policy of that campaign was endorsed by a large majority in the Commons, and towards the close of the session both Houses, though not without some demur, adopted votes of thanks to the Viceroy, the commanders, and the troops engaged in the operations which the Treaty of Gandamak brought to a close. There were debates, though not party divisions, on the Treaty of Berlin, remarkable for the facility of Ministers in minimising their obligations, and repudiating responsibility for the engagements they had entered into. That Russia has loyally evacuated Turkish territory seems in their eyes to condone the non-surrender to the Sultan of the Balkan frontier and the egregious failure of the Anglo-Turkish Convention. Discussions on Indian finance obliged the Government to order large retrenchments of expenditure in our Eastern Empire, but failed to induce them to abandon the proposal to saddle India with the greater portion of the cost of the late campaign. Egypt and the Khedive, and our latest acquisition the island of Cyprus, have occupied some attention, but the session has closed without much light having been thrown upon the course of events which brought about the deposition of Ismail Pasha and our exact relations with his successor. The war in South Africa has also been discussed in various forms. On only one occasion was the policy of the Government directly challenged. Just before Easter Sir Charles Dilke proposed a motion suggesting that Sir Bartle Frere ought to have been recalled, and after a debate damaging to the Government, he was defeated by 306 to 246 votes; the smallest majority which the Government have lately obtained on any question of foreign or colonial policy.

Although the two wars to which England was committed early in the year have absolutely or nearly been brought to a close, Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet has perceptibly lost prestige during the session. In domestic affairs it has been careless, vacillating, and disingenuous. Its "spirited foreign policy" fails to arouse enthusiasm, as its delusive results come into view, and the burdens it entails are beginning

to be felt. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has, to a great extent, evaded the necessity for increased taxation, and put off the evil day. But the accumulated deficits which are the outcome of Tory rule will have to be met; though possibly, just before next year's Budget—with a heavy expenditure to be provided for—is due, the Government may decide to take the chance of a general election, leaving a legacy of debt to their successors.

THE MORALS OF LIBERAL UNION.

It is perhaps not a very encouraging symptom of political progress in the immediate future that at most Liberal gatherings the prominent cry is not a distinct demand for any special measure of reform, but rather an insistence on the suppression of almost all definite aims, at least as far as home politics are concerned, for the purpose of securing party union. For certain exceptional reasons, applicable to the approaching crisis of a general election, we are not disposed to dispute the wisdom of this course just now, so long as it is kept within the limits of common-sense and political morality. But common-sense suggests that when we shout for Liberal union we do not, or at least ought not, to mean a mongrel mixture of effete Whiggery and mild Conservatism. And political morality requires that we should not substitute a mercenary assault on the Treasury Bench for the advocacy of principles conscientiously held to be of vital importance to the present good of the nation. It is surely as true of any real Liberal party, as it is of the Liberal soul, that it "deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall stand." Unfortunately there is for the most part considerable difference of opinion as to the particular Liberal devices to be wrought out. And some nominal Liberals, tired of the dusty, or sometimes even muddy, roads of progress, acquire so keen a perception of the difficulties and dangers of every possible advance, that the practical issue is identical with Conservatism. Under such circumstances it is necessary to ask ourselves whether there is any fundamental distinction at all between a Liberal and a Conservative policy, and if so, how far the main principles of Liberal policy can help us in deciding on the terms of Liberal union at any particular crisis? If ever there was a time that called for a distinct answer to such a question it is the present one. And if we give our own view of what the answer should be, it is not with the object of disputing the practical necessities under which we lie, but rather of favouring an intelligent and reasonable understanding of those necessities. The Liberal who suppresses his own private interpretation of Liberalism merely because he is bullied into acquiescence by the voluntary agents of an aspiring millionaire with no particular views, and afraid of all pledges, will not be of much use in a contest, and may indeed be turned into a traitor by any insidious Tory with a ready ear for crochets and a facility for promising consideration. On the other hand, the men who are willing to postpone questions of special interest to them because they have intelligence enough to understand the true relation of such questions to the general line of progress suggested by fundamental Liberal principles, will have hope in their patience, because they are sure that their apparent self-suppression is no more than the storing of seed for a rotation of crops from ground which is in the meantime being cleared of briars and thistles.

Now the fundamental characteristic of political Liberalism was not unfairly stated the other day at the opening of the Leicester Liberal Club. Modern history reveals a certain law of progress, according to which the blessings of life, not pleasures merely, but knowledge, freedom, power of self-government are gradually extended from the few to the many. We do not mean that the perception of such a law is confined to any one school of politicians. But we do say that it has a special fascination for the genuine Liberal. It is to him the main feature of interest in the contempla-

tion of contemporary politics. And he is so confident of the beneficent action of this law that his main idea of political activity is the destruction of such barriers as impede it, and the promotion of such institutions as may foster it. On the other hand, a man of a Conservative tendency sees difficulties and has fears. He would feel insulted at being told that he is an enemy of progress, because he is not consciously so. But he is always afraid that the old exclusive system may be destroyed before the diffusion of a higher life among the masses is sufficiently matured to take its place. He has no adequate faith in the educational influence of freedom. He is shocked by new-fangled abuses while quite insensible to worse results from old corruptions that for lack of novelty do not rouse his attention. The result is that the Conservative, though he always commends sound and cautious progress, would delay taking the necessary steps to attain it until the advent of a general state of enlightenment and purity impossible without the intermediate risks that appear to him suicidal. But the true Liberal's faith in humanity is second only to his faith in God, and is indeed involved therein.

Such being at least one aspect of the fundamental difference between Conservatives and Liberals, let us see what light the observation throws on the morals of Liberal union. It is obvious that the purpose of such union must be to secure the widest scope possible in the present and in the immediate future for the operation of the law above noted. And if there is a conflict as to the details of policy, then those measures which command the most general consent, and are likely to have the widest and most reproductive influence, should be preferred. We shall speak most plainly if we give particular instances. A correspondence has appeared in the papers from which it would appear that some Liberal advocates of the Permissive Bill would rather vote for a supporter of the present Ministry, if such a candidate would consent to give the bill a trial, than for a Liberal who declined to pledge himself. Now in order to judge the morality of such a course fairly, we must suppose it to be successful, and that an experiment in the direction of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's proposals could be secured at the cost of keeping up the bastard Imperialism of the day. Will any fair-minded man, however deeply impressed with the evils of the liquor traffic, maintain that such a course would give the widest scope in the present and in the immediate future to the law by which the blessings of life are being gradually diffused from the many to the few? We know, and we deeply feel, all that may be said about the curse of drink. But according to the principles of the bill, such an experiment must wait on local feeling and be limited in action. On the other hand, the curse of Imperialism extends wherever the British dominion extends, and directly or indirectly embraces the whole world. Deliverance from this blight would immediately affect for the better the prospects of hardly less than three hundred millions of human beings; and indirectly would give some additional security to life all over the world. The policy of Imperialism has been to sacrifice peoples and provinces to dynasties and Cabinets. A reversal of it would initiate a new era for South-Eastern Europe, and more humane relations with barbarous or semi-barbarous tribes both in Africa and Asia. We maintain, therefore, that, viewed in the light of the fundamental characteristic of Liberalism, there can be no hesitation in the choice between the promise of an experiment, however beneficent, that can only embrace a few thousands, and a change of foreign policy that would benefit directly almost a third of the whole human race. It is on such considerations that we would base the duty of Liberal union at the present crisis. They do not suggest, much less justify, the concealment of any article in our political creed. But they do teach that as arrogance and immorality in foreign policy, by the extravagance it requires, by the distress it spreads, by the official and class interests it fosters, does more than almost anything else to pamper the few at

the expense of the many, so the first duty of Liberals who believe in the great law of progress above referred to is to condemn and abolish the source of mischief by bringing about a change in the advisers of the Crown.

NATIONAL ARMAMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW.

EVEN those members of the recent Conference on International Law who objected to the introduction of the question dealt with in Mr. Richard's weighty paper—which appears elsewhere—must admit that there is an intimate connection between the two subjects. It is true, as Mr. Richard stated, that the relation between them is one of contrast, rather than of affinity, since "laws are silent in the midst of arms," and "there can be no international law while the nations are practically proclaiming to each other that might makes right—that the only law that really avails is the law of the strongest, to which all considerations of justice, reason, and religion must be subordinated."

What are called "the horrors of war" are palpable enough; but the mischiefs arising from an armed peace, while as injurious, are less direct and more subtle. The prodigious cost of multitudes of armed men, of huge navies, and of military appliances of the highest scientific type, is obvious; as is also the waste of human energy which they involve. But the selfishness and the distrust which keep apart possible belligerents; the excitement and preoccupation of mind which displace all other topics in popular estimation, and make savants and scientists seem like dreamers in comparison with military and diplomatic chiefs—all these put obstacles in the way of human progress which can be measured only by a few, and can hardly be measured to the fullest extent by even the most thoughtful and observant of mankind.

This is not speculation only, it is sober and patent fact; of which we in this country have had painful proofs. The Russo-Turkish war, the Afghan war, and the African war, have had an obvious tendency to deteriorate the public life of England, and to affect most prejudicially all our legislation. The fact that the Army Discipline Bill has, during the recent session, consumed more time, and excited more heat, in Parliament than any other topic is a typical fact; and it is equally certain that the financial derangements caused by our recent wars, the full effect of which has yet to be felt, will tell unfavourably on the legislative work of another session. And if our purely domestic affairs are thus affected by the unrestrained prevalence of the military spirit, what hope is there that the difficulties and intricacies of international law will receive adequate attention, or call forth the earnestness and intelligence of the nation? The demands of militarism are, in truth, as boundless as they are inexorable; while compliance with them renders more or less impossible obedience to the laws of political science, morality, or religion.

We do not wonder, therefore, that Mr. Richard should attach to international peace an importance infinitely greater than to international coinage, or copyright, or postage, or any other of the material or mental interests in which nations have a common concern. For a friendly feeling is absolutely essential to mutual agreement in relation to all these interests, and friendliness is endangered, if it be not impossible, where nations vie with each other in extending their armies and navies, and multiplying the deadliest missiles which misdirected scientific skill can possibly supply. Nor can any anachronism be greater than that involved in efforts to bring about a good understanding in regard to the peaceful pursuits and arts of life, while no corresponding efforts are made to secure a similarly good understanding in relation to the security of nations from the devastating effects of war. It was therefore natural that Mr. Richard should have expressed an almost passionate desire that the programme of the Association for the Reform and Codification

of the Law of Nations he was then addressing should have a share in the large and nobler work of "bringing the great communities of mankind in their organised and collective capacity to acknowledge the authority of a common law, and take some steps, at least, towards the establishment of a general tribunal before which their differences may be adjudicated on principles of reason and justice, instead of by an appeal to the bloody arbitrament of the sword."

The object of Mr. Richard was, however, not so much to further the cause of arbitration as a means of adjusting international differences when they have arisen, as to promote a general reduction of armaments on the part of European nations. That surely cannot be regarded as Utopian or Quixotic! It is a very long way from the adoption of "peace principles"; nor does it involve anything irrational or impracticable. It cannot be a law of nature that between four and five millions of men should always be in arms in Europe at one time; or that nearly six hundred and fifty millions of money should be annually taken from the capital and industry of nations to support the European military system. To sit down resignedly to a conclusion so melancholy would indeed be to pass sentence of condemnation on our boasted civilisation, and to place Europe on a level with far less favoured quarters of the world.

"Is there no remedy for this system of folly and mutual ruin?" asks Mr. Richard, and he gives a practical answer to his own inquiry. He reminds us that Sir Robert Peel—a sober-minded statesman, and no mere theorist—insisted that the true interest of Europe was to come to some common accord, so as to enable every country to reduce its military armaments; that, when Mr. Cobden made proposals for a mutual reduction of armaments, Lord Palmerston expressed full concurrence in his aims; that the present Prime Minister has urged the adoption of a similar policy; that the late French Emperor's proposal to hold a congress of European States for this purpose failed through the opposition of England; and that the discussions on the question in foreign States have been of a hopeful character. Recent events have, no doubt, interposed obstacles in the way of this beneficent movement; but now that we have peace on the European Continent, at least, the time has come when the voice of reason, and the voice of Christianity, may again be heard. A revived commerce and financial retrenchment, resulting from this cessation of conflict, will bring with them immeasurable benefits; but a time of calm restfulness will be turned to the highest of all uses if there be general and sincere exertions to diminish the risk of future struggles, and to bring their disastrous results within the smallest possible limits.

TO AUSTRALIA IN FORTY DAYS.

(From a Correspondent.)

The advertising columns of the daily Press have familiarised us with the otherwise startling announcement "To Australia in forty days." Few, however, have realised what it means. I purpose, therefore, giving the readers of the *Nonconformist* a brief account of how the thing is done. On a certain day last year I left Tavistock-square, carpet-bag in hand, for a trip to New Zealand. The attractive advertisement of the "Orient Steam Navigation Company" had proved too great a temptation for me. So taking train at Fenchurch-street, I was soon at Tilbury Fort, and on board the steamer. In these travelling times most people are acquainted with the huge vessels which rush hither and thither at racehorse speed over the pathless abyss of waters which encircles our snug little island home. Four journeys across the Atlantic had prepared me pretty well for the stupendous vehicle. But not quite. I soon realised that a ten days' voyage to New York or Quebec was a very different thing from a trip of fifteen thousand miles. In a word, I found myself one of a moderate-sized township, consisting of a long street with a farmyard at one end and a promenade at the other. A herd of bullocks, several pens of sheep, a score of Berkshire porkers, some hundreds of fowls, ducks, turkeys, &c., and a sleek Alderney milking cow constituted the live stock. Below deck were the hundreds of domi-

ciles for the passengers, and the elaborate kitchens where the hundred and forty meals were to be prepared for the by-and-by hungry six hundred. Right in the centre of the vessel were the spacious dining-halls, where three times a day would be transacted the most important business of the community. A couple of miniature hotels were also found hereabouts, where lovers of Bass and Guinness would get their wants supplied. Below this important "street" were the sleeping berths of the steerage passengers—a vast cellar-like apartment fitted up with some hundreds of bunks, and sundry rough-and-ready contrivances for victualling purposes. Underneath all this was the cargo of some two thousand tons weight. Looking down through a skylight on the main deck you beheld the powerful machinery which was to propel this floating town through storm and tempest, at the rate of over three hundred miles a day for forty days. "Is it possible," one could not help asking, "that yonder slumbering giant can be stirred up to so appalling a task?" By-and-by came the reply. The captain mounted his bridge, the engineers got their signal, and, almost noiselessly, the ponderous mass moved forward. Going down into the engine-room the propelling power was at once seen. A shaft of steel some seventeen inches in diameter, and over 200 feet in length, with the fan or screw at its end, revolved in obedience to the mandate of a pair of 4,000-horsepower engines at the rate of about fifty-eight times a minute. And so on we went, more than a ton of coal being consumed every half-hour to sustain the requisite power. Our first stoppage, after embarking sundry passengers and various estates at Plymouth, was at St. Vincent, one of the Cape-Verde group of islands, where we replenished our stock of coal. This unfortunate operation occupied some thirty-six hours. Barges laden with sacks of coal came alongside the vessel, and these were hauled on deck by steam power and emptied down sundry coal-holes, smothering the whole ship with the dust. By way of amusement for the passengers there were boats, manned by swarthy natives to take them on shore at one shilling per head, and for those who chose to remain on board there was an exhibition of diving skill on the part of a score or so of negro youths. Sixpences thrown into the water were invariably caught by these fearless divers before they reached the bottom. The next stoppage was at Capetown, another coaling station. Here nearly all the passengers went ashore, as the stay promised to be more protracted. In addition to some four hundred tons of food for our engine fires, fresh provision had to be made for the six hundred human machines on board. A boatload of bullocks were taken in, hauled over the ship's side by cords fixed to their horns, a revolting process which justly merited a criminal prosecution on the part of everyone concerned in the barbarity. Sundry other gaps in our larder were also filled up here, and after a couple of days' delay we again steamed off. By way of amusement we had a succession of concerts, which, through a fortunate abundance of musical talent on board, were remarkably good. The various means resorted to for killing time revealed the tastes of the passengers. A majority smoked through the hours. Others played at cards. The sporting fraternity gambled, laying bets with one another as to the number of miles made daily. A small minority assembled morning and evening for Divine worship. The young men indulged in athletic sports, and the young girls in more or less elaborate flirtations. At least three decided matches were made up on board—the hottest courtships being a couple of middle-aged affairs. One furrow-browed New Zealander fell prone before the glances of a buxom lass—"fair, fat, and forty"—and a tall Australian sheep-farmer succumbed to the witching smiles of about as fascinating a girl as ever flirted on board ship. It was evidently a very serious matter as far as the male gender was concerned, fully bearing out the oft-repeated assertion that love, like the small-pox, is always worst when taken late in life. A considerable portion of our passengers were returning colonists—prosperous men who had been "home" for a trip. An interesting study these. Many of them were wholly illiterate, and nearly all exceedingly purse-proud and opiniative. If they were fairly representative men no one need wonder at the repeated "storms in a teapot" at the colonies. The gentlemanly instincts seemed painfully wanting, and in their place there appeared a vulgar sort of pride which was very suggestive of shoddy. This pride was specially displayed on the decks and at the entertainments. Although the first and second saloon passengers were practically one as regards social status, a wall of separation was

placed between them as high and impassable as that which separated the Jews and Samaritans. Young men and women, whose ancestors probably left England at the public expense, if not "for their country's good," were highly indignant if a second-class passenger came between the wind and their nobility. The best part of the play was that those selfsame purse-proud colonists lost no opportunity of sneering at "aristocratic" England: the truth, probably, being that they had been disappointed in their efforts to edge their way into society—their intense egotism effectually barring their entrance. There are a good many delusions afloat touching colonial life, but nothing can be more delusive than the common notion that change of residence alters social relationships. Working-men get into their heads an idea that a master in Australia, New Zealand, or Canada is an altogether different being from an English one. The fact is he is, as a rule, much more severe and exacting, the only difference being that, whereas in England, labour being in excess of demand, the employer has the advantage, in the colonies it is altogether the reverse, and the *employé* gets it. It is purely a question of supply and demand. As to social equality, it is nowhere further off than in our colonies, and nowhere do all the vices of the old world flourish more luxuriantly. This, however, is somewhat of a digression. The run across the Indian Ocean was chiefly remarkable for the change of temperature which it brought. A piercing cold overtook us, and heavy rugs, great coats, sealskin jackets, and other arctic appendages had to be routed out of their hidden resting-places in the luggage-hold. Onward, however, went our good ship, doing her three hundred and twenty, twenty-five, or thirty miles per day, until the joyful tidings "Land ahead" sounded in our ears, and "Greater Britain" appeared on the horizon. I have only incidentally referred to the victualling department, but something further is demanded of what is perhaps the most difficult part of the whole enterprise. Anyone who has undertaken to cater for a party of fifty or sixty at a picnic for one day only will appreciate the difficulties to be overcome by the unhappy steward who has to supply the wants and the fancies of ten times as many, not for one day only but for sixty. The task is simply herculean. How is it accomplished? In the first place, assuming, of course, that all necessary supplies have been procured and stored in their respective places—the live stock in their stalls and pens, some thousands of pounds of dead meat in the ice-house, innumerable bottles of ale, wines, and spirits in the department sacred to such important items, about a couple of thousand bags of flour for the chief baker's use, groceries of all kinds enough to stock a good-sized shop, medicines for the dispensary, fruits and vegetables almost beyond computation, and tinned meats, condensed milk, &c., in large quantities—I say, assuming all these requisites to be on board, which, of course, is a mere matter of calculation and arrangement, the problem to be solved is how to place it all before the six hundred passengers in the due order of breakfast, dinner, and tea. In the first place, then, I repeat, each division of the passengers has its appointed hours for meals—the third class being half-past seven, half-past twelve, and half-past four o'clock; the second class, half-an-hour later, and the first class at nine, five, and eight o'clock, with an informal lunch hour somewhere midway between breakfast and dinner. To each department is allotted a separate staff of stewards, who are the ship's parlour and house "maids." These young men have to bear the chief brunt of the difficulty, and in rough weather their task is especially hard—carrying hot joints about a house suffering from a series of epileptic fits, or hurrying to and fro along a street with trays of tea and coffee during the convulsions of an earthquake. Every now and then a specially vicious lurch or roll of the vessel will clear a table almost, precipitating dishes and hot joints and gravy, or dozens of cups of scalding tea into the laps of the long-suffering guests. This of course means double trouble for stewards. I say nothing about the internal convulsions of rough weather, and what they mean for "chamber maids." The provision made for supplying the wants of the passengers is of course graduated according to the respective classes. The third class get a breakfast of oatmeal porridge and tea or coffee and bread-and-butter; a dinner of soup and meat, with an occasional addition of plum-pudding; and a plain tea. The second-class have stews, chops, eggs-and-bacon, with coffee or tea, for breakfast; hot joints, soup, and sundry *entrées*, with pudding or pastry every other day, and an apology for a

dessert, for dinner; and cold meat, &c., for tea. In the first-class saloon the provision is much more *recherché*, and so nearly resembles that of a first-class hotel as to need no description. All kinds of luxuries cover the tables, and the usual apparent waste is observable. In rough weather the view at dinner-hour is such as to recall the grim lines of a poet:—

A company in a parlour,
Crammed as they on earth were crammed;
Some sipping rum, some sipping tea,
But, as you could plainly see,
All silent, and all damned.

One of the greatest luxuries is the bath department, and although in hot weather the competition for the delightful plunge is rather severe, there being but one bathroom for each first and second class saloon, it is not difficult for all who desire a bath to get it at some time or other during the day. Experienced housewives will ask, "How about the table and bed linen?" Well, the supply is remarkably good. How so much spotlessly white table-cloth can be found I am at a loss to conceive, and no one has to complain of his bedroom appointments. An ingeniously-contrived drying-room in the vicinity of the engine-room supplies a key to half the difficulty, but of the rest I am unable to speak.

Children seem very happy on board, and, as they are easily amused, the time which hangs so heavily on their seniors is passed with all the hilarity of a holiday. Light literature is the refuge of a large proportion of the adult population. Very strait-laced religionists, lay and clerical, are found with very queer literature in their hands all day. I fancy large parcels of "Parlour Library" must go overboard at the close of the journey. It is not the least interesting study on board ship the revealing of character which takes place. Unconsciously the mask falls off amid the strange surroundings. Prim young ladies with pious gift-books in their possession, showing their connection with strict religious communities in England, are found flirting with ship's officers and others to their hearts' content; and "reverend" gentlemen may be heard at night as hilarious over their grog and cigars as the "Hermit of Coplehurst" himself. One of our wildest scapegraces was a young man who for five years sang as a chorister in an English cathedral; and the most profane man on board was a Scotchman, whose father and mother probably deemed it a sin to smile on the Sabbath Day. A very serious Presbyterian minister passed me the other day with an armful of Captain Marryat's and G. P. R. James's novels; and a Cambridge man, who tells us he is going to obtain "orders" in Australia, is oftener than not at least exhilarated when he retires to his cabin bunk; while another, who has, I suppose, obtained these credentials to supernatural agency, I have heard wending his way to bed to the tune of "Another good man gone wrong." Alack! ecclesiastical routine and Church rules are a very thin coating of whitewash which soon gets rubbed off in a crowd. Six men whose lives had been moulded according to the pattern drawn in J. J. Gurney's "Thoughts on Habit and Discipline" would probably have more character, and be of more true value in the world than any average thousand of church or chapel ceremonialists, either lay or clerical.

But our journey ends. Adelaide is in view, and although a trifle over the advertised time has been consumed, owing to a prevailing head-wind during a large part of the voyage, still we are near enough to maintain the credit of as fine a vessel as ever crossed the sea, while our entire freedom from mishap justifies the highest eulogium that can be passed both on captain and crew. Never was a voyage more pleasantly made, and never was triumph of human skill and business enterprise more clearly exemplified than by the safe conveyance of this small township over thirteen thousand miles of sea at the rate of three hundred miles per day.

Of course there is a *per contra* to be entered against my eulogium. No one should go to sea who is not fully prepared to "rough it," or the whole voyage will seem but a protracted wretchedness. Your bedroom is scarcely the size of a good wardrobe. You dress amid universal convulsions. You sleep—if sleep you can—in a perfect Babel of strange noises. Near you is a panting steam-engine of terrific power, which, in case of accident, you know would blow the whole township into the air. Underneath are the boilers—a slumbering volcano, more terrific in possibilities than *Ætna*. Half the journey you are the victim of a nausea which transforms all table luxuries into sheer abominations. There is no escape from disagreeable fellow-lodgers. You are consumed with *ennui*, and are disgusted with the spectacle of universal

idleness. Your liver resolutely refuses to act. You pay double price for your Bass. Stewards are always hanging out for a tip, and you see nabobs, who can afford to propitiate their greed, monopolising their attentions, and grinning over your repeated snubs.

But there is a resistless charm about travel, and so in spite of all these drawbacks and a thousand more, such is the demand for the probable wretchedness that fortunate shipowners are able to get a couple of guineas a day for its infliction, and you are led to believe that even at such a charge you are fortunate if you secure the privilege of a moderately decent cabin.

A. C.

Literature.

HEINRICH HEINE.*

Whether or not Mr. Matthew Arnold was right when he insisted that the true line of development of German poetry lay rather with Heine than with Goethe, there can be no doubt that Heine's prose is unequalled for delicacy, for grace, and for sinuous subtlety and suggestiveness. He has shown that the heretofore clumsy German is as suitable a vehicle for refined satire as the French itself; he has revealed unexpected possibilities in it as a medium of delicate scorn, of gliding softness, which perhaps also, too often, has something of a slimy trail behind it. From Heine Mr. Arnold has learned more than he himself is perhaps wholly conscious of. When one thinks of Mr. Arnold's trick of innuendo, so often veiling itself under a professed simplicity and unconsciousness; when he thrusts at such men as Dean Alford and Mr. Dale under the guise of the utmost politeness and the deepest respect; we cannot help recalling many of Heine's hits at contemporaries. Never to be forgotten, when once read, for example, is the remark about the cruel fate that had overtaken the three great enemies of Napoleon: "Londonderry," he says, "cut his throat; Louis XVIII. rotted on his throne; and Professor Saalfeld is still professor at Göttingen."

This phase of Heine's genius, which from various circumstances has hitherto been the best known to us, apart from his power as a lyric poet, is, however, far from that which most merits attention. He was versatile in talent; but he was also far more honest-minded and more catholic—in a word, more sincere than might be believed from the specimens of his prose with which till now we have been most familiar in England. It was Heine's privilege when a young man to travel in our country; and in his "English Fragments" he has preserved many of his prejudices against our country; incisive, satiric, full of scorn as they are. Much as Mr. Matthew Arnold would repudiate the sentiment of that deliverance about Westminster Abbey, he must often have admired the manner of it, for it is wholly in his spirit. Heine, it will be remembered, represents himself as receiving the descriptions of the monuments from the verger of the Abbey with all deference as he walked through, only to horrify the poor man at the close, by telling him that he had had much pleasure in the spectacle, but that he would gladly have given double, even treble the fee if "the collection had only been complete"; passing on to remark to himself as he turned away that perfect freedom in England would not be possible till it was complete—a sentiment not at all likely to recommend itself to English Conservatives or, indeed, to Englishmen generally. No wonder that the *Quarterly Review* fell foul of Heine, and made him familiar to English readers as the incarnation of the Continental Revolutionist, whose literary graces were only as the angel-airs which the devil is said to assume for his own purposes. Heine lived to take more sober views than these, and to find that there was one thing for which he envied England—the purity of her women and her domestic constancies. In much else, too, Heine mellowed as he grew older. A man who beneath all his raillery and wild sarcasm preserved so faithful and fond a love for "the old woman of the Dammthor"—his mother—who was wont to worship Luther, to eulogise the daring and the reformer-like honesty of Lessing and of Herder, and who penetrated beneath the tinsel

* *Wit, Wisdom, and Pathos from the Prose of Heinrich Heine*. With a few pieces from the "Book of Songs." Selected and translated by J. SNODGRASS. (Trubner and Co., London; and Gardner, Paisley.)

calm of Goethe, and deliberately denied to him anything but a middle-sized niche in the temple of Poesy, was not what Charles Kingsley, on being asked by his daughter about Heine, deliberately named him—"a bad man, my dear, a bad man." No, Heine was not altogether a bad man, though the iron had entered very deeply into his soul and turned his blood to gall. He was a Jew, and to be a Jew in Germany at the beginning of the century—he was wont to speak of himself as "one of the first men of the century," having, as he held, been born on the first day of the year 1800—was to be embittered and looked down upon. The small princelings of Germany, who would not agree in most things, unluckily agreed in this, and despised the Jews. Heine hated the small princelings and their miserable pretence at government, and became a devotee of Napoleon; no doubt in some degree because Napoleon favoured the Jews, as he favoured other depressed nationalities. To Heine he became a hero, and a hero he remained to Heine. If he was a Revolutionist, he could to this extent combine it with Imperialism. He became a Christian, but confessedly only for reasons of convenience; and having passed through various phases of freethinking and looser deism, he returned finally and firmly to the idea of a personal God, and came to perceive in the Judaism which he had abnegated something higher than was to be found in the Hellenism to which he had for long been but too thorough a devotee. Justice will not be done in any sense to Heine till these facts are carried with one in reading his books—so full of subtle satire and sarcasm as they are.

Mr. Snodgrass has done a service in bringing into prominence the more earnest and elevated elements in Heine's genius as well as the lower, and what to the young is certain to be the more attractive—his veiled sarcasm, and cutting raillery. Mr. Snodgrass has conscientiously gone over and made characteristic extracts from most of his works, grouping his passages by the books and not by subjects; but the reader who comes to the volume without any previous knowledge of Heine will manage to get a very good notion of his style of thought and of writing, though it must be said that his growth of character is not, and could not by this method be so emphatically presented. All that our space will allow us to do will be to present a few extracts, chiefly illustrative of Heine's higher moods. Through the serious humour of the following we can reach one article in a true religious confession:—

I must expressly contradict the rumour that the return to a personal God has brought me to the threshold of any Church, much less led me into its fold. No; my religious convictions and opinions have remained free from all sectarianism; I have been enticed by no church bell; I have been dazzled by no altar lights; I have not coquetted with any symbolism, nor have I quite renounced my reason; I have abjured nothing, not even my old heathen gods, from whom I have, it is true, turned aside, though parting from them in love and friendship. It was in May, 1848, on the last occasion on which I went out, that I bade farewell to the lovely idols to which I had bowed the knee in the days of my prosperity. Painfully did I drag my limbs to the Louvre, and I almost fell into a swoon as I entered that splendid hall where the blessed goddess of beauty, our dear lady of Milo, stands on her pedestal. *Long time did I lie at her feet, weeping so bitterly that a stone must have had pity on me. And though the goddess looked down on me with compassion, it was a compassion without comfort, as if she would say—"Seest thou not that I have no arms, and so cannot give thee help."*

And this, on the Bible, may well be taken as a supplement to the foregoing:—

Rightly do men call it the Holy Scripture. He who has lost his God can find Him again in this book, and towards him who has never known God it sends forth the breath of the Divine Word. The Jews, who appreciate the value of precious things, know right well what they did when, at the burning of the second Temple, they left to their fate the gold and silver implements of sacrifice, the candlesticks and lamps, even the breastplate of the High Priest adorned with jewels, but saved the Bible. This was the real treasure of the Temple, and, thanks be to God, it was not left a prey to the flames or to the fury of Titus Vespasian, the wretch who, as the Rabbins tell us, met with so dreadful a death. A Jewish priest, who lived at Jerusalem two hundred years before the burning of the second Temple, during the splendid era of Ptolemy Philadelphus, and who was called Joshua ben Siras ben Eliezar, has written down for us in a collection of apophthegms, or *mescholim*, the thoughts of his time about the Bible, and I will here impart to you his beautiful words. There is in them a sacerdotal joy, and they are as refreshing as if they had but yesterday welled forth from a living human breast. The words are as follows:—"All this is the Book of the Covenant made with the Most High God, namely, the law which Moses commanded as a precious treasure to the house of Jacob. Wisdom floweth therefrom as the water of Pison when it is great, and as the water of Tigris when it overfloweth its banks in spring. Instruction floweth from it as the Euphrates when it is great, and as Jordan in the harvest. Correction cometh forth from it as the light, and as the water of the Nile in autumn. There is none that hath made an end of learning it, there is none that will ever find out all its mystery, for its wisdom is richer than any sea, and its word deeper than any abyss."

As a specimen of Heine's lighter vein, yet not

without its graver suggestions, we may give the following:—

Perfumes are the feelings of flowers, and as the human heart in the night-time, imagining itself alone and unwatched, beats with a fuller pulse, so seems it as if the flowers, in musing modesty, await the mantling eventide e'er they give themselves up wholly to feeling, and breathe forth their sweetest odours. Flow forth, ye perfumes of my heart, and seek beyond the mountains the dear ones of your dreams! She is already laid down in sleep; at her feet kneel angels, and when she smiles in sleep 'tis a prayer which the angels echo. In her bosom lies heaven with all its bliss; and when she breathes my heart, in the distance, trembles. Behind the silken lashes of her eyelids the sun has gone down, and when she opens them again, then it is day, and the birds sing, and the cowbells tinkle, and the hills glisten in their emerald garments, and I shoulder my knapsack and go on my way.

The above is really a poem in its way—one of many such poems, perfect lyrics, scattered throughout the prose of Heine. The *Reisbilder*, or "Travel-pictures," is, indeed, full of such, and his wonderful way of transforming into lyric image that passage in the Chronicle of Limburg which has to do with the lepers will not soon be forgotten by any reader the least sensitive. Sometimes Heine is acutely observant of manners and of minor national characteristics, as we find in this, our last, extract:—

What pleased me best in the people of Paris was their polite behaviour and their air of distinction. Sweet pineapple perfume of politeness! How beneficently thou refreshed my languishing soul, which had endured in Germany so much tobacco-smoke, smell of sauerkraut, and rudeness of manners. I was almost abashed at such sweet politeness—I, accustomed to the clownish German thrust in the ribs without any accompanying apology. During the first week of my stay in Paris I intentionally exposed myself to be jostled just to have the pleasure of hearing the music of their expressions of apology. Not only by reason of their politeness, but also on account of their language, the French have always had for me a certain grand air. For with us in the north of Germany the speaking of French is one of the attributes of the higher nobility, and so from childhood I always associated the French language with the idea of distinguished birth. And yet I find that a Parisian market-woman speaks better French than a German canoness with four-and-sixty ancestors. This idiom, which lends to the speaker such an air of distinction, bestowed on the French people in my eyes something delightfully fabulous. This arose reminiscence of my childhood. The first book from which I learned to read French was the Fables of La Fontaine. Their simple and rational style impressed them on my memory in indelible characters, and when I came to Paris and heard French spoken on all sides, I found myself perpetually recalling the fables, and imagined myself listening to the well-known voices of the animals. Now it was the lion that spoke, and now the wolf; then the lamb, or the stork, or the dove. Very often, indeed, I fancied that I could distinguish the fox's voice, and then I recalled the words:—

"Eh! bonjour, Monsieur du Corbeau,

Que vous êtes joli! que vous me semblez beau."

Such reminiscences of fable were still more frequently awakened after I had penetrated into that higher region in Paris—the World. It was the very world from which the blessed La Fontaine had borrowed the types of his animal characters.

Mr. Snodgrass has also translated some of the most attractive of the pieces of the *Buch der Lieder*. These are, in most instances, executed with care and faithfulness; but the nicest art, and a sense of language the most delicate, are essential here. It is doubtful, indeed, if such pieces as "The Two Grenadiers" and "A Pine tree standeth lonely" can be rendered with any approach to truth into another language—they are really untranslatable. Mr. Snodgrass has, however, made a valuable addition to English literature in this volume, and has given us a most attractive and efficient introduction to the study of Heine.

KNIGHT'S "STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE."

Professor Knight tells us in his preface to this volume that the essays of which it is chiefly composed have appeared at intervals during the last ten years in various periodicals. The one on "Eclecticism" explains both a doctrine and a tendency which pervade the volume; and may give at least a partial coherence to the whole. The principle of selection by which the author has been guided is derived from the subject-matter of his topics rather than from their treatment. In his own words, "They make no pretence to learning . . . only one or two of the perennial problems—those questions of the ages, which reappear in all the literature of philosophy—are discussed; and they are dealt with less in relation to the tendencies of the time than in their permanent aspects." To us it seems that this is true to a very limited extent. The papers form an interesting record of a very important period in the intellectual life of their writer, and as such they cannot be separated from "tendencies" which were impulses in the development of that life. Professor Knight, like many intellectual men who have held a definite theological position, has been of late

years greatly influenced by the scientific tendencies of this generation. His sympathies have been largely drawn in their direction, and some of the most startling generalisations of scientific men have forced themselves upon him as convictions. One of these is the doctrine of evolution, which he seems to accept in its entirety. As Professor of Moral Philosophy he goes so far as to accept the application of that doctrine to "our moral and intellectual nature," which, he says, "bears the most evident traces of evolution." The frankness and importance of this statement is not diminished by a denial, the incidence of which we find it difficult to fix.

I only deny (he says) that their evolution can explain their origin. Every valid theory of derivation must start with the assumption of a derivative Source, or it performs the feat of educating something out of nothing, nay, of developing everything out of nonentity. It may surely rank as an axiom that whatever is subsequently evolved, must have been originally involved.

This seems to us to be incontrovertible, and is a conclusion which, freed from the verbal play of the words evolved and involved, the most vigorous of scientific evolutionists would accept. But it is not the point of the argument on which the most pressing emphasis should be placed. Looked at from the point of view of general science, the initial stage is lost in mystery. Looked at from the point of view of the theologian, the logical results of evolution are the all-important considerations. The believer in a supernatural revelation may be conceivably forced to accept evolution as a method of Divine action; but his attention will be fixed, not on the origin of man's moral and intellectual nature, but on its future. The fact that man has such a nature is accounted for by his belief in God: the co-existence of the method of evolution with such alleged facts as the Fall in Adam, the Redemption by Christ, the immortality of the soul, and the resurrection to everlasting life, becomes the real problem to the theologian. And these constitute the objections to a complete acceptance of the doctrine of evolution regarded merely as a method of Divine action, and not even as an explanation of the origin of things. The whole force of Professor Knight's reasoning is directed to establishing the former proposition and denying the second.

In an essay on "Personality and the Infinite" the views of Strauss and Mr. Matthew Arnold on the personality of God are examined with much care, and criticised with a courteous but severe logic. But there remains a much more substantial agreement between Mr. Arnold and Dr. Knight than at first sight appears. The former sought to expose a gross anthropomorphic conception of God as a being like man, having a personality such as we popularly conceive personality to be. As Dr. Knight says, "Personality is regarded as, in all cases, essentially limited, and necessarily bounded." This is, however, not the personality for which he contends, but "the survival of a permanent self under all the fleeting or deciduous phases of experience." And, again, "all that we seem warranted in affirming is that personality is one of the characteristics under which the Supreme Being manifests Himself, not that it is exhaustive of the phases of manifestation, that are either possible or actual."

In this essay, and also in one that follows on "Theism," Professor Knight reasons on the hypothesis of an intuitive capacity in the human mind to perceive beyond the reach of the senses, and independently of their aid. That such a hypothesis is the anticipation of a power which belongs inherently to the moral nature of man we have no doubt; but it unfits him to deal with scepticism which springs from a purely sense philosophy. The full objection of those who deny the personality of God on those grounds must be recognised before it can be answered. The conception of the universe which pervades these essays is that of an Infinite Being, manifested under some form of personality to the conscience and emotions of a finite personality, and lying midway between these is Nature, the field of their mutual operations—on the one hand, the revelation of the Infinite will, and on the other, the material for the exercise of finite energies. Volition is here the source of activity; whether in the case of the perfect, free will of God, or of the wayward, incalculable, though limited, will of man. Of this conception modern science knows nothing save to repudiate it. Before its eye the Infinite will has faded into an order whose causative symbol is law. Man has been drawn into the circle of Nature, and finds himself moved by the same forces, and ruled by the same laws. In this view there is no room for volition, and therefore, no necessity for personality. Self in man is a defect of consciousness, or a necessary stage in his development towards his realisation of the unity of his

race. Against this latest view of the universe and man, it is useless to oppose the arguments which will satisfy a Unitarian congregation or a company of modern Theists. Either we must show that it is a false inference from our present knowledge, or fall back upon a supernatural revelation, and wait for its justification in the growth of a truer science. Dr. Knight's position is mainly that of the Theistic school of Newman, Martineau, and Hutton. On this account we cannot think that these essays will obtain more than a passing notice. They register a movement that has been taking place amongst the religious minds of Scotland during the last ten years, and they indicate a condition of unstable equilibrium in the intellectual portion of the Professor of Moral Philosophy at St. Andrews.

Of the remaining essays the most notable are "The Summum Bonum; a discussion on Culture"; two papers on "Prayer: its functions and sphere"; and three on poetry. We have read the last three with greater interest than the others, as being less controversial and affording a healthier spiritual nourishment. The first of the three was originally published as an article in the *British Quarterly Review* entitled "A Contribution towards a Theory of Poetry"; the two latter were lectures on "Wordsworth," and "Nature as interpreted by Wordsworth." "The theory of poetry" Dr. Knight treats first of all historically, and then states his own view, which is drawn from a consideration of man's moral condition. Poetry he finds to be "the outcome and expression of our yearning for perfection"; in other words,—

Poetry may be roughly said to pursue beauty, as marred by deformity, and the intensity of its pursuit marks the intensity of the poetic character. . . . The poet deals with the real as he finds it—beauty blent with ugliness, discord in the midst of harmony, sorrow in the heart of joy, good commingled with evil—and he strives to idealise it: to transfigure the reality and to harmonise the discord by means of poetic idealisation.

This theory finds, afterwards, its application in the lecture on Wordsworth. As a rule, lectures to literary societies on poets and poetry do not deserve a permanent place in literature; nor can these be considered as an exception. They are, nevertheless, very charming, even if a large portion of their charm consists in quotations. A passage from Coleridge is of supreme truth and beauty; it expresses most succinctly and accurately the real value of Wordsworth's work, "and," as the lecturer remarked, "in vigour it has not been surpassed by later criticism." Passages also from Wordsworth's letters bring into strong relief his own idea of the poet's aim, and the contrast exhibited by contemporary criticism of his power. Poetry was to him a religion; its aim was "to console the afflicted, to add sunshine to daylight, by making the happy happier, to teach the young and the gracious of every age to see, to think, and feel, and therefore to become more actively and securely virtuous." Like religion, too, it was "its own exceeding great reward." Professor Knight, lecturing on Nature as interpreted by Wordsworth, takes a richer view of the world in which man is placed and of his relations to it, and we think a truer view. He enters with evident delight into "the love born of reverence and rational insight" which Wordsworth displayed for Nature as the living presence

that disturbs him with the joy
Of elevated thoughts.

What is this living presence? We will give Professor Knight's answer to the question, and with that answer will close this notice:—

Is it the material substance of Nature? Surely not. Is it, then, the living force, the fresh life, the ceaseless movement and the unweary power of Nature? These may be elements, or parts of it, but surely they are not the whole. Is it not also the expressive, the intelligible personality of Nature? Do not tell me that the word is a metaphoric one. I know it is. But we can surely use the symbol—and use it to good purpose—while we let it drop from the mind, in the very act of using it. It is not the movements of a machine that affect us. Nor is it a mere impulse, an emanation, an influence reaching us from some wholly inscrutable source. It is the utterance of thought and feeling, the contact of life with our lives, of the Infinite with our finite personalities.

"RODERICK HUDSON."

Mr. Henry James tells us that this novel is a reprint, after "minute revision," of a tale published in Boston in 1875. Of all modern novelists, we should say that Mr. Henry James is one who writes in a manner that least needs "revision." To what extent he polishes his sentences, or what trouble they may cost him, we do not know, but we should imagine that it would be difficult for him to improve upon his own style. It is a style clear as crystal, and not merely clear, but clean—a characteristic that has never been applied, to our knowledge, to any

* *Studies in Philosophy and Literature*. By WM. KNIGHT, LL.D., Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of St. Andrews. (London: Kegan Paul and Co.)

* *Roderick Hudson*. By HENRY JAMES, Junior. Three Vols. Revised edition. (Macmillan and Co.)

one's writing, but which strikes us as the one word by which to describe Mr. Henry James's writing. There are sentences all through the book which it would be impossible for the best literary artist to improve, not merely for their style as such, but for their exact tone and modulation—the writer knowing exactly what he wished to say, and having the power to say just that and nothing more nor less.

The tale itself is not a happy one, and does not give the reader, excepting from an artistic point of view, much pleasure to read. There are, however, fine developments of character, with an admirable contrast, no doubt intended by the writer, in a character already finished, and that does not need further development. We refer to Rowland Mallet. We are introduced in the opening chapter to the village of Northampton, New England, where Rowland Mallet, a wealthy, cultured American, becomes, accidentally, acquainted with the undeveloped artist, Roderick Hudson. Believing much in him, and hoping much from him, Mallet offers to Hudson a residence in Rome. The young artist eagerly accepts the offer, and leaves his mild, anxious, Puritan mother and his "engaged" without a sorrow. He settles at Rome with his wealthy friend. It is at this point that Rowland Mallet's character is tested. Mr. James has, we think, scarcely realised his own ideal in this. He has drawn a perfect—a perfectly unselfish, a perfectly generous—friend. Mallet withstands all griefs, all temptations, all disappointments; he never swerves a hair's breadth from the straight line. The impression, therefore, that he produces upon us is that of a man of taste and generosity, but not of sufficient feeling. The expectation that Hudson would become a great artist is entirely realised. The young sculptor takes Rome by storm, but his irregular nature is soon developed. This is finely illustrated; in fact, excepting on Christina Light, whom we consider to be the most artistic portrait in this work, the author has expended his best power in illustrating Roderick Hudson's character. Its progress we need not detail. It passes from artistic devotion to sheer self-indulgence, to sensualism, to utter ingratitude, to utter loss of honour. What is most remarkable in this sketch is the admirable manner in which it is shown how the artist passes through all these stages, and is altogether unconscious of his own radical viciousness. The tale, as a whole, is as we have said, not a particularly pleasant one, but it would be difficult, even for Mr. James—notwithstanding "the American"—to write a better one.

"THE ETHICS OF GEORGE ELIOT'S WORKS."

This little volume, which is as remarkable for its fine sympathy with artistic purpose as for clearness and beauty of style, is full of pathetic associations. We are told in the preface that the author, who had not secured for this essay, on account mainly of its length, insertion in any of the journals or reviews to which he was wont to contribute, had laid it aside, and only by accident had it recalled to his memory when on his deathbed. "One day during his last illness the talk happened to turn on George Eliot's works, and he remembered his long-forgotten paper! One of the friends then present—a competent critic and high literary authority—expressed a wish to see it, and his opinion was so favourable that its publication was determined on. The author then proposed to complete his work by taking up 'Midd'le-march' and 'Daniel Deronda'; and if any trace of failing vigour is discernible in these latter pages, the reader will bear in mind that the greater portion of them was composed when Mr. Brown was rapidly sinking under a painful disease, and that the concluding paragraphs were dictated to his daughter after the power of writing had failed him, only five days before his death." So much for the circumstances under which the little volume appears—circumstances which must go far to disarm harsh criticism.

With respect to the work itself, our definitive opinion must be prefaced by the general remark that of all processes the most risky is the attempt to draw anything like a complete logical system of doctrine out of the work of a great imaginative writer. The more faithful and complete the system thus drawn, and the more it is justified, precisely in the same degree is the artist lessened as a creative artist, because the very idea of embodying in the substance of an imaginative work dogmatic teaching is simply a confession of the presence of disruptive elements. Of course the artist teaches, but it is through the emotions and the sympathies, not through the understanding as a separate and exclusive faculty. Now, when we are

led to contemplate the ethics of any great writer as a formal system, we are asked to assist at a piece of anatomical dissection—nothing less nor more. Mr. Brown performed his task with great care, and with the utmost concern for the credit of the author whom he has learned to admire, and reverence; but the one initial objection to his method is that it is throughout self-criticism, and not criticism of George Eliot. It is a revelation of the beautiful, if sometimes hectic and erratic, Christian spirit of Mr. Brown, and is no revelation whatever of the half-humanistic half-Comtist tendency of George Eliot's writings, regarding them from a technically moral aspect. We are quite certain that George Eliot herself would be the very first to repudiate one at least of the motives of that lofty self-sacrifice which Mr. Brown finds to lie at the basis of George Eliot's teaching. If we have read her at all aright from the side of Positive teaching, nothing is more certain than that the high inducement she holds forth for self-sacrifice is not rooted in any idea either of a personal Saviour or of a personal immortality—two ideas which are essential to the Christian doctrine of self-sacrifice, however broadly conceived. George Eliot, indeed, exults in the thought of robbing human nature of what has been held the strongest inducement to high moral intent—in the absolute denial of anything in the form of personal reward, since she absolutely exults in quenching individual consciousness altogether, to close it in some imaginary entity of a human consciousness. Language itself rebels against the close representation of her conceptions, and loses itself in contradictions. When she uses the words—

When I shall join the choir invisible,
she has recourse to language which to ordinary Christian minds would convey something definite; but her very conception of the joining of the choir invisible is the quenching of the *Ego* in order to the exaltation of some Humanity, which, like Hegel's Absolute, never exists, but always is in the future. This idea has a very intimate bearing on the whole question of George Eliot's ethics; for self-sacrifice in its last and highest form is a mere blind determination when all ideas of personal relations have been refined away; and however much such beautiful conceptions as those of Mr. Brown may recommend themselves to our sympathies we simply must insist that they are read into George Eliot, and are really not found there. There is not a little in Mr. Brown's incidental criticism of great contemporary authors with which we fully agree; and, by way of illustrating what is meant, we will venture to extract this passage, and with it take leave of the book:—

In largeness of Christian charity, in breadth of human sympathy, in tenderness toward all human frailty that is not vitally base and self-seeking, in subtle power of finding "a soul of goodness even in things apparently evil," she has not many equals, certainly no superior, among the writers of the day. Throughout all her works we shall look in vain for one trace of the fierce self-opinative arrogance of Carlyle, or the narrow dogmatic intolerance of Ruskin; though we shall look as vainly for one word or sign that shall, on the mere ground of intellectual power, energy, and ultimate success, condone the unprincipled ambition of a Frederick, so-called The Great, and exalt him into a hero; or find in the cold heart and mean sordid soul of a Turner an ideal, because by one of those strange physiological freaks that now and then startle the world, the artist's temperament and skill were his beyond those of any man of his age. But as our object here is to attempt placing George Eliot before the reader as asserting and illustrating the highest life of humanity, as a true preacher of the doctrine of the Cross, even when least formally so, we shall leave these features, as well as her position as an artist, untouched on, the rather that they have all been already discussed by previous critics.

This passage may well stand as characteristic of the whole book, inasmuch as it reveals so clearly a certain youthful purity and enthusiasm—still occupied in projecting its own image over that which it reveres and loves—in combination with extensive knowledge and an easy power of expression.

"THE RIGHTS OF AN ANIMAL."

It is new to us to hear of the rights of animals being questioned, and yet Mr. Nicholson, who is a competent observer, and, we suppose, mixes to some extent in intelligent if not intellectual society, writes as though his own belief upon this subject must seem to be extremely heterodox. Could Mr. Nicholson find any intelligent man anywhere who does not believe that animals have rights? We suspect that the curious thing about this is that the doctrine came to Mr. Nicholson himself as a sort of revelation, he being behind other people in thinking about it. At the bottom of his own statement concerning this, and at the bottom of

* *The Rights of an Animal. A New Essay in Ethics.* By EDWARD BYRON NICHOLSON, M.A. (C. Kegan Paul and Co.)

his style of writing, there appears to be an almost morbid self-consciousness, and, on the whole, a somewhat unpleasant egotism. He says:—

I do not claim to have found a new truth. Lawrence, Bentham, and Helps have each of them laid down the principle that feeling (by which I mean the power of feeling pleasure and pain) gives rights; and this principle was clear enough to anyone who would look straight at it and into it. But this is just what the transmitted prejudices of thousands of years, and the fear of being laughed at which works so strongly on nine men in every ten, hindered most people from doing. And so it comes to pass that the mention of the rights of animals in many a drawing room of to-day might, I dare say, cause as much mirth as would once have been caused by the proposals to do away with slavery and to give the people votes. What I do claim to have done is to have started from a still earlier principle in morals, the first principle indeed; to have deduced from that the principle of Lawrence, Bentham, and Helps; to have strengthened this latter principle (though in truth it did not need strengthening) by an argument from moral evolution; to have put and answered the objections to it more systematically; to have defined the limitations which necessity sets to its observance in practice; and by means of examples falling within or without these limitations to have given some of the rough heads of a working code of duty towards animals.

We cannot see that Mr. Nicholson has done all this, but he has shown a much worse egotism in calling attention to his own style. "I may as well," he says, "save anyone the trouble of picking my style to pieces, by saying that I have no style worth speaking of;" and "I have often been afraid to write a word or two of English when it was at the point of my pen, for fear that my readers' minds should be drawn away from the thought by the seeming oddness of the words, and also for fear that they should be ashamed to acknowledge the thought in the face of the world, because of the old and strange cut of the thought's clothing"—all which extremely unnecessary writing about one's self seems to us to be little more than an invitation to the critic to tell Mr. Nicholson that he is too modest, and altogether mistaken. We cannot say that, but we can say that there is an ill-mannered affectation of modesty and singularity, that the author's style is not worth noticing either by Mr. Nicholson or anybody else.

Having said this much, and without the smallest hope or expectation of doing Mr. Nicholson any good, we have to add that the reader will find the substance of this essay to be characterised by great thoughtfulness, often by striking originality, and by a thorough independence of mind. One of the first aspects of the question which Mr. Nicholson discusses relates to the foundation of rights. This might have been more broadly presented. Right, for instance, necessarily follows from existence. I am, and therefore I have claims. There is a sense in which it may be said that all created beings, of all orders and descriptions, have rights as against their Creator, and that those rights remain, and must remain, intact, while they are forfeited. Here, as it seems to us, is the beginning of this subject—our author, however, begins it a step or two lower down. He bases right upon freedom of action. It is a sound basis in itself and will stand criticism. He goes on to say that animals have the same abstract "rights of life and personal liberty with man." That is necessary, but the author scarcely shows how it is necessary. He proceeds to discuss the question of the human conscience and animal rights, as illustrated by the disposition to treat animals kindly. Too true it is that among the baser sort of people, both high and low in what is termed "Society," this conscience has certainly not reached its "fullest development"; but it exists, if it be only expressed by an arbitrary liking, which does not necessarily involve a particularly well-cultivated conscience—for the man who will pet a dog, and will also sometimes show that he is almost its equal, will kick a cat without mercy or any recognition of "rights" at all. Here is a case of arbitrary development.

Next as to "Animal Reason," a brief, but thoughtfully-written section of this subject, through which we will not follow Mr. Nicholson, but give his own wise concluding words:—

And now let me sum up. To most animals have been given neither hands nor a speech, I take it, well fitted to convey many and complex thoughts; they are therefore denied the two chief means of culture. The time which they have for living and learning is but short: wild, their life is in some cases all fear and struggle; tame, they are under the rule of one who is often a bad master and seldom a good schoolmaster—man. Even thus we are driven to see in them, despite our contempt, and to acknowledge in them, despite our pride, numberless proofs of the same mental and moral faculties to which we ourselves lay claim—often (though not always) different in degree, but not so in kind. Nay, if we are pressed, we must admit that many animals are wiser and better than many men and some entire races of men. And, since we cannot put down these faculties to instinct, ought we not rather to admire and cultivate than disparage and slight the animal mind? Can we do less than forbear henceforth to

* *The Ethics of George Eliot's Works.* By the late JOHN CROMBIE BROWN. (Wm. Blackwood and Sons.)

bring forward the supposed defects of that mind as a ground for refusing to the animal what would otherwise be its rights as a feeling creature?

Of the "Animal Soul" a word or two—and a word or two only—is said. What the Hindoos believe on the subject we all know, and we know of the practice following that belief; but there are many who think not only that all animals have souls, but that there is for them all, as for all created life, a great if unknown hereafter. Indeed, if this were not the case, it would be not seldom difficult to see either wisdom or goodness in their creation, notwithstanding our being shut up to the belief that there must be wisdom and goodness. Many have acknowledged the doctrine of the future life of animals—John Wesley being amongst the foremost. If there be such a life—what a terrible assertion of their rights as against man may there not take place!

There is a good deal of practical wisdom—which is needed—in Mr. Nicholson's chapter on "Limitations in Practice," but we go further than our author. He admits the justice of vivisection, only "crying out" against "vivisectioning an animal before its time." Pray, what would the animal say as to this word "before"?

However, the great point in regard to such subjects as the one before us is to get people seriously to think of them. This Mr. Nicholson will do wherever his book may be read. He has, therefore, done a service, both to humanity and to the living nature that is not humanity. The extracts in the appendix are admirable.

THE DISESTABLISHMENT MOVEMENT.

It will be seen from the subjoined notice that the disestablishment movement, even at this quiet time of the year, shows remarkable signs of vitality. Taking Mr. Fisher's meetings, reported below, as an example, we doubt whether, in the very height of political controversy, it would be possible to get better meetings. The numbers attending, and attending without any particular effort, as far as we know, to get them together, ranged from 1,500 to 3,000, and these are very large numbers indeed in country districts. It will be seen that at Cradley Heath there was great disturbance of the characteristic Church defence kind. Otherwise the large and sympathetic audiences expressed the most entire approval of the objects of the Liberation Society.

The reports that follow are taken from the *Brierly Hill Advertiser*:—

NETHERTON.

On Monday of last week Mr. Fisher lectured, it is stated, to upwards of fifteen hundred persons, assembled in the Market Place, Councillor Billingham presided, and in opening the proceedings he pointed out that the clergy had always been the most strenuous opponents of measures which, after they had become law, were admitted to be highly beneficial. (Hear, hear.) As they all knew the clergy were bound to advocate the principle of love and goodwill towards men; but nevertheless they found that bishops in the House of Lords had supported the unjust and unholy wars in which the present Government had engaged. With their tongues they preached peace and goodwill, but by their actions they advocated slaughter and crime. The gentleman about to address them would no doubt advance convincing reasons for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church. (Hear, hear.) Nine-tenths of the Churchmen would readily agree to disestablishment; but they did not like the idea of disendowment, because the Church was very rich. Some bishops, he believed, had 15,000*l.* a year, and some considered them the successors of the apostles, who were the poorest men on earth. (Cheers.) He would now call on Mr. Fisher to proceed with his address. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Fisher, in his address, travelled a wide ground, giving various instances of the injurious connection of the Church and State. At the close of this meeting Mr. G. Hastings (Midland Counties agent of the Liberation Society) said they were trying to advance Liberalism, and to give special prominence to that phase of it known as religious equality. (Hear, hear.) He then moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the existing relationship between the Episcopal Church and the State is out of harmony with the times in which we live, and ought, therefore, to be dissolved. The meeting further pledges itself to aid in securing the return of Mr. H. B. Sheridan at the approaching general election by a magnificent majority, he having proved himself faithful to the principles of religious equality."

Mr. Barker seconded the resolution, which was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

CRADLEY HEATH.

A meeting was held on Tuesday evening at Cradley Heath, and we quote in full the local report. It was announced that the meet-

ing would be held in the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Fiveways, but the numbers who assembled as the hour for commencing approached were so great that it soon became obvious they could not all be accommodated in the building. Added to this fact it was discovered that a quantity of cayenne had been placed on the floor, the stirring up of which by the trampling of a large number of feet would have rendered it impossible to conduct the meeting with comfort. Under these circumstances it was determined to have the meeting out of doors, in the school-yard; and there accordingly the platform was erected. The excitement was very considerable in the neighbourhood, and intentions to disturb the meeting and render it abortive were openly avowed. Persons who have been active in disturbing Liberal meetings were present in the crowd; and everything betokened lively proceedings. As Mr. Charles Cochrane (who was chairman) was about to open the proceedings, a fellow near the front interrupted, declaring that he had come to "—well disturb the meeting." This person, however, had reckoned without his host; and he soon found himself the object of very unwelcome attentions. Friends rallied round him; but they were too few and too feeble to aid him, and he was soon ejected from the yard, not without bearing on his face the sign-manual of sundry stalwart fellows who were determined there should be quietness. This little episode had the effect of somewhat cowering the obstructives; and it was not till about the middle of the lecture there was some interruption by a youth blowing a whistle. He was, however, pointed out to the police, and he desisted. A little afterwards, a person named Burgess, and another named Billingham, moved the ire of those around them by their conduct, and were "bullocked" about, till they reached the gateway at the rear of the building, through which they were unceremoniously thrust into the street. The remainder of the proceedings were as quiet as meetings in the open-air usually are; and the careful preparations for a Tory disturbance were rendered null and void.

The Chairman referred to the putting of cayenne pepper on the floor of the school as a dirty school-boy's trick. In alluding to the question of disestablishment, he said that a large section in the Church had repudiated the doctrine of the Reformation. According to the Church of the Reformation there were only two sacraments—Baptism and the Lord's Supper—and the other sacraments of the Roman Church were repudiated. He held in his hand a book written by one who called himself a priest of the Church of England, and the book was intended for the teaching of little children. In that book it was asked, "What are the sacraments?" and the answer was, "Baptism and the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of the Lord." Then it was asked, Q. "Are there any other sacraments?" A. Yes, there are five others, which are ordained for certain persons and certain states of life. Q. What are these sacraments? A. Confirmation, Penitence, Holy Orders, Holy Matrimony, Visitation or Unction of the Sick. Q. Is there any one of these five which are necessary for a baptized person before receiving the Holy Communion? A. Yes, Confirmation. They must not suppose that he condemned any section in the Church for the principles which its members held; but they all signed the same formularies, and it was clear that the teaching he had just read was not in consonance with that of the Protestant Church of the nation. (Hear, hear.) Indeed, Mr. Gladstone had declared that the Church—and the teaching he had read showed it—was one of "the chief recruiting grounds of the Church of Rome"; and that was one of the reasons why disestablishment must and would come. (Cheers.) After condemning the course taken by the bishops in regard to the Afghan and Zulu wars, and commending Bishop Colenso's action in regard to the latter, the chairman called upon Mr. Fisher to speak.

Mr. Fisher said that on the previous night, at Netherton, he had endeavoured to show that the Church was injured as a Church by its connection with the State. To-night he would attempt to prove that the nation on its political side was injured as much by that connection as the Church was on the religious side. (Hear, hear.) They could not be blind to the fact that there was a great waste of the time of Parliament by ecclesiastical legislation, Parliament having on an average to deal with no fewer than something like thirty ecclesiastical bills every year. There were many questions in which all had an interest which could not be dealt with in consequence of this ecclesiastical legislation. He might notice the question of county government, the question of the county franchise—(cheers)—the question of the liquor laws, the question of Irish University education, the question of opium revenue in India, the question of criminal law procedure, the question of responsibility of employers, the question of the reduction of national expenditure—(cheers)—the question of the reduction of Indian expenditure, the question of the reform of the City companies of London than which there was nothing more corrupt in the wide

world; the question of the law of entail, the question of the right to bury their own dead with their own rites in their own churchyards, the question of corrupt practices at elections, and the question of the redistribution of electoral power—all these were questions urgently calling for redress; but that redress could not be obtained through Parliament having to discuss vexatious questions pertaining to the Church. (Hear, hear.) Then the union of Church and State had a tendency to lower our standard of morality. They were all aware that there was a law against simony in this country. When a clergyman was inducted into a living, though he might have purchased it in the open market, he made oath as follows:—"I—do swear that I have made no simoniacal payment, contract or promise, directly or indirectly, by myself or any other person to my knowledge or with my consent, to any person or persons whatsoever for or concerning the procuring or obtaining of this living, nor will I at any time hereafter perform or satisfy any such kind of payment contract a promise made by any other without my knowledge or consent." These words were very explicit; and yet, with the exception of the livings bestowed by bishops, nearly every living in the country had been bought in a manner directly opposed to the spirit of the law. ("Shame.") When, therefore, clergymen bought their livings, and took such an oath as he had read, as a matter of necessity such conduct on the part of public teachers of religion had a tendency to reduce the standard of national morality. (Cheers.) If honour and honesty were expected among the commercial and working classes, what less could we expect from the clergy? Yet such things as he had described were done in the eye of day by the clergy, the accredited and public teachers of religion. Then there were the Thirty-nine Articles, which, according to Archdeacon Paley, contained no fewer than 500 distinct propositions; and to all these 500 propositions every clergyman was called to give his "unfeigned assent and consent." That being so, we ought to have the same teaching in the Church from one end of the land to the other; but as a matter of fact everyone knew that was not the case. (Hear, hear.) How, then, came it that all these clergymen among whom there was so much diversity of teaching came to give their "unfeigned assent and consent" to these 500 distinct propositions? Well, they signed them with a "mental reservation"; and such a state of matters among the teachers of religion, he again contended, had the effect of deteriorating the national morality. (Cheers.) After a reference to the Valuation Bill of the Government, which proposed to relieve from the payment of rates so much of the incomes of incumbents derived from tithes as went to the payment of curates, Mr. Fisher went on to say he further contended that the mere fact of a Church being established developed class interests which had always been opposed to the liberties of the people. (Hear, hear.) Every man had a blind eye where his interests were concerned, and if any man said he had not that was a proof he had two. (Laughter.) In such a measure, therefore, as the cheapening of the bread of the labouring man by the repeal of the Corn Laws, they found the clergy—guided by their class interests—opposed to the repeal almost to a man. When famine had converted the bulk of the nation the bishops in the House of Lords considered only their class interests, and did everything in their power to prevent the repeal. ("Shame.") The removal of Catholic disabilities, the great Reform Act of 1832, the repeal of the taxes on knowledge, and many other measures of beneficence found their strongest opponents in the bishops and the clergy. What was best to be done in these circumstances? The answer to that question was—Do away with class privileges and you will do away with class interests. Then the clergy, whose course was determined so largely by their position, would throw themselves into the arms of the nation, and many of them would be found fighting side by side with good Liberals in the cause of advancement and progress. (Cheers.)

Mr. G. Hastings then briefly proposed a resolution similar to that moved at Netherton. Mr. Burford seconded the resolution, which on being put was carried unanimously.

BRUCKMOOR

On Wednesday Mr. Fisher addressed, according to the *Advertiser*, an audience of fifteen hundred at Bruckmoor. Mr. William Barlow (chairman of the School Board) presided.

The Chairman said that in discussing the question of disestablishment of the Church, they were not animated by hostility to the Church as a spiritual institution. (Hear, hear.) With its purely spiritual operations they had no desire to interfere; but they wished to consider the question as a purely political one. As Dissenters and as a portion of the nation they refused to sit down tamely under any disabilities; and that those who dissented from a Church established by law should suffer disabilities was inevitable. (Hear, hear.) The time had come when there should be some action in regard to this great institution. The question of disestablishment was not a new one. It had been discussed for years; and he thought the nation was becoming ripe for a settlement. (Cheers.) If the Liberal leaders were not prepared to adopt it as part of their programme, he thought pressure should be brought to bear upon them to do so. (Cheers.) He believed that if disestablished the Church would be more influential, more powerful, more prosperous, and more popular among the people than it was at

the present time. (Cheers.) In conclusion the chairman called upon Mr. Fisher to address the meeting.

Mr. Fisher proceeded to address the meeting, which repeatedly and loudly cheered him. At the close Mr. G. Hastings moved a resolution in favour of disestablishment, which was seconded by Mr. John Addison and carried.

KATE'S HILL.

The last of the series of meetings (says the *Advertiser*) in connection with the disestablishment movement was held on Thursday evening at Kate's Hill, on the Wake ground. There was a large attendance; and in the absence of Alderman George Thompson, who was unable to be present, Mr. R. N. Hall presided. Mr. John Fisher, of London, was the lecturer. In the course of his remarks he said they were told that the educational machinery of the country would be interfered with by disestablishment. He did not think this would be the case. The extension of the franchise to the agricultural labourer could not be long delayed, and when that was the case there would be a better educational state of things in country places than was at present the case, because School Boards would be in a better state of things than existed at present. They had the School Boards in operation, and he did not fear for the education of the people. Referring to the objection raised by some that if the Church were disestablished it would destroy the bulwark of Protestant liberties, the lecturer pointed out that instead of those liberties being destroyed by disestablishment they were really in danger from the existence of an Established Church, as shown by the conversions to Rome. Mr. Fisher afterwards spoke on the Burials question and other points. Mr. Hastings also addressed the meeting; and a resolution similar in character to that passed at the other meetings was carried unanimously.

SOME OPEN AIR MEETINGS.

DODDINGTON, CAMBS.—This parish—so well known in the ecclesiastical world for its exorbitantly fat living of 10,000*l.* per year—now cut up and out down by the Ecclesiastical Commission—was visited by Mr. Lummis on Tuesday last. The meeting was announced to be held near the village pump, an institution which furnished the lecturer with an apt simile, in consequence of its recent removal from a spring becoming foul and putrid to one more copious, pure, and life-giving. At the appointed time an installment towards a thoroughly good and prosperous meeting was given by almost every house; and a crowd of people, thoroughly attentive and orderly, heard the lecturer till evening shades came down, one villager expressing, at the close, the feeling of all, that "the thing was right and must be done." Mr. W. Kerridge presided.

TRYDD ST. GILES.—A somewhat smaller, but quite as hearty and unanimous meeting was held here on Thursday near the churchyard—presided over by Mr. R. Cragg, of Sutton St. James—Mr. Lummis dealing with "facts for the people about the Established Church."

LONG PRESTON, YORKSHIRE.—On Tuesday, the 12th inst., Mr. J. Andrew gave a lecture in the Baptist Chapel, on "The present state of the Established Churches and the duties of Liberationists," which was well received. The Rev. W. Giddings presided.

LETTER FROM MR. SPURGEON.

SHEPLEY.—The *Huddersfield Examiner* reports a meeting held at Shepley last week, in the Methodist New Connexion Schoolroom, which is well reported. Our contemporary says:—"The lecturer on this occasion was the Rev. George Duncan, the minister of Oakes Baptist Chapel, Lindley, and the title he gave to his lecture was 'The Church of England a Branch of the Civil Service.' The Rev. J. Chamberlin, of Berry Brow, presided. The lecturer said that he intended to try to show them at what angle Liberationists agreed. Although they were composed of men belonging to different sects, they were all agreed on this—that the State Church is a branch of the Civil Service, and an evil both to the State and to the Church, and, therefore, they wished for a dissolution of that combination as quickly, judiciously, and justly as possible. (Hear, hear.) Having seen a statement as to the Church attributed to Mr. Spurgeon by Mr. Reed, whom he had met before, and of whom he formed a low estimate, he wrote to that gentleman, and received the following letter:—

Nightingale-lane, Balham, Surrey,
August 2, 1879.

Dear Mr. Duncan,—I have so often answered the statement which Mr. H. B. Reed quotes that I would now just let it stand, and let these defence agents slander me at their pleasure. The words are wrenched from their connection. They were originally rather a compliment to the Church than not. I remarked (some eighteen or more years ago) that our difficulties as to disestablishment lay in the very goodness of the Church, and that I preferred, when I must fight, to fight with a bad man; and therefore, so far as this disestablishment battle is concerned I could wish, &c. Tell Mr. Reed that he must be very hard up for charges if he goes so far back, that if he pleases I will say a few strong things for him to quote which will be true, and that his cause must be in *extremis* when it needs this garbled quotation to defend it. I wish his Church and himself would grow better and better, and abandon all erroneous doctrines and erroneous quotations. If you will inform him that I do not entertain the sentiment set forth in the quotation as it stands by itself, and that I never did entertain such a sentiment, I shall have confidence in him as an English gentleman that he will not go on imputing to

me a sentiment which I heartily repudiate. If, however, he quotes me thus again I shall regard it as an illustration of that ecclesiastical honesty which enables men to deny Baptismal Regeneration, and yet teach children the Church Catechism.—Yours ever heartily,
C. H. SPURGEON.

At the close of the lecture, on the proposal of Mr. John Wood, seconded by Mr. John Andrew, thanks were voted to the Rev. G. Duncan for the lecture. The lecturer, who was enthusiastically received on rising to respond, acknowledged the vote, and proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. J. Chamberlin for presiding. This was seconded by the Rev. R. Pool, and carried. The Chairman briefly replied, and the proceedings, which had been most orderly, then concluded.

RUSSIAN DISSENTERS.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Daily News* writes:—

"There is another question, that of religious liberty for the Raskolniks or Dissenters, many millions of whom are industrious and peaceful, and disposed to be loyal and law-abiding, but yet deem themselves compelled by obedience to the higher law to set at naught the oppressive edict under which for many years past their churches have been closed, while they are forbidden to print and circulate the Scriptures and religious books in the form their consciences approve. I understand they hold precisely the same doctrines as the National Church (the Orthodox, as it is called), and differ only on some points of ceremonial, such as making the sign of the cross with two fingers instead of with three fingers, and other equally immaterial changes introduced by the patriarch Nikon some 250 years ago. Tenaciously clinging to the old forms, they do not admit themselves to be Raskolniks, i.e., Sectarians, but claim to be, and call themselves, Stáro-obriadai, i.e., Old Believers; and do not receive the version of the Scriptures 'published under the sanction of the Holy Synod,' which they reject as one of the innovations. Requiring the Scriptures, and not being allowed by law to print the old form and version, they are driven to have secret printing presses, which are searched for and confiscated just as the secret presses of the revolutionary party, only with the difference that these latter are more fortunate or more clever in evading discovery than are the 'Old Believers.' Lately, and for the third time, their presses have been seized. The chief person amongst the Old Believers—the 'head of the cemetery of Rogoje,' as he is called—has recently been in St. Petersburg to provide new printing plant, and to see the Ministers afresh on the subject of their grievances. I have had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Shebassoff, whom nature and high endowments have evidently made to be a 'leader of men.' Of commanding figure, dressed in the long black coat which all the Old Believers wear, he appears to combine the simplicity of a child with the steadfastness of a martyr. Whilst ready to say with Luther, 'Here I am, I cannot do otherwise, God help me,' he wept as he spoke of their closed churches and the doors of the Konostas 'sealed' by Imperial order for more than twenty years past. In the course of his interview with one of the Ministers, by whom he was reminded that the presses had been seized for the third time, he replied: 'If it were the ninth or tenth time I must continue to print.' Just as John Bunyan's wife, when pleading before the justices for the release of her husband from Bedford Gaol, on being asked whether her husband would give over preaching if liberated from prison, bravely replied: 'My lords, if my husband is let out of prison to-day, he will preach again to-morrow, by the help of God.' Equally firm and constant to their convictions are these Old Believers. Their position is indeed peculiar and painful. They have no legal status, their priests are not recognised, their marriages and their issue are illegal. They cannot bequeath or inherit property. They are not legally liable to pay taxes, but to avoid trouble they submit to the exactions of the police. I cannot say that it is true of them as of the descendants of the patriarch in Egypt that the 'more they were oppressed the more they multiplied and grew,' but it certainly is true of these people that they are amongst the most prosperous in the empire. Avoiding spirits and tobacco, thrifty and God-fearing in their habits, the diligent become rich, and their wealth is said to be very considerable. I have heard that at the close of the Serbian campaign in 1876, when the funds of the 'Red Cross' were at a low ebb, they were willing to contribute seven million metallic roubles—that is, more than a million sterling—as a gift to the society, if only their rights and their liberties were assured. It was rightly seen that the 'gift' of civil and religious liberty could not be sold or 'purchased with money,' and it now remains for these precious birth-rights to be freely bestowed, and the law-abiding instincts of twelve millions of people to become a bulwark and source of strength to the institutions of the empire, instead of being alienated to the ranks of the discontented.

"Besides the Stáro-obriadai there are various other sects of Raskolniks, or Dissenters, the chief being the Bespopousi, i.e., without priests. Of these the most numerous and important are the Molokani, differing essentially from the Old Believers, and being very like the Anabaptists in various parts of the Continent, and the so-called Plymouth Brethren in England. They take the Scriptures as their sole guide in matters of faith, and believe themselves to be under the direct teaching of the Spirit in their interpretation of

them, rejecting the veneration of 'ikons,' which forms such an important part in the worship of the Orthodox Russian Church, as amongst the Old Believers. Like the latter, the Molokani are industrious, peaceful, and prosperous. They have, however, been more persecuted than the Old Believers, having been not only deprived of the right of building churches, but have been exiled to the Caucasus and other outlying parts of the empire, where, as everywhere, they have taken root and flourished. These people are amongst the most law-abiding and prosperous, and it is impossible to suppose that they will be kept under legal disabilities as at present. Although not so numerous as the Old Believers, they are the class of people who are the strength of an empire, its bulwark and backbone. It is difficult to ascertain anything like the exact number of the Molokani and other sects of the Bespopousi. Possibly they are above a million, apart from the Scopsi and other sects whose doctrines and practices are at variance with social order."

ECCELESIASTICAL MISCELLANY.

THE PROPOSED NEWCASTLE BISHOPRIC.—The legacy of 100,000*l.* for the new see of Newcastle has been reduced to 16,000*l.* by the operation of the Law of Mortmain, but it is stated that the Bishop of Durham has an appeal ready, starting with some 32,000*l.*, and as 1,500*l.* come from the revenues of the see of Durham, it is not supposed there will be much delay in founding the see.

CANTERBURY CONVOCATION.—The Archbishop of Canterbury on Friday afternoon waited upon the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and placed in his hands, for submission to the Queen, the report agreed upon by both Houses of the Canterbury Convocation in answer to Her Majesty's letter of business on the subject of the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer. On Saturday afternoon the Bishop of London attended at Westminster, under a commission from the Primate, and prolegued Convocation, in pursuance of Her Majesty's writ, until Monday, Nov. 3.

THE ORNAMENTS RUBRIC.—The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, in reply to a long letter from the Rev. G. B. Roberts, Vicar of Elmstone, as to the alleged understanding between the two Houses of the Southern Convocation relative to the Ornaments Rubric, writes:—"As you desire to make public your letter and my answer, excuse me if I say no more than this: (a) That I am no party to any understanding relative to the Ornaments Rubric; (b) that if that rubric be altered by law during my episcopate, I will duly inform the clergy of the diocese as to the course it will be my duty to follow."

THE BELGIAN BISHOPS AND THE NEW EDUCATION LAW.—The Belgian bishops have, at a conference held at Malines, resolved with regard to the new education law that absolutism is to be refused to all teachers and pupils at the public normal schools; that teaching in all public schools being schismatical, all teachers employed in them are excommunicated; that absolutism is to be refused to the teachers of all public schools, without any exception; and that the children attending the public schools, being considered as acting without discernment, may be admitted provisionally to first communion.

TWO MINISTERS FOR ONE PULPIT.—Mr. MacRae, of Gourrock, Renfrewshire, notwithstanding that he was recently deposed and declared by the United Presbyterian synod to be no longer a minister of the denomination, preached in Gourrock church on Sunday. Mr. Fleming, who had been appointed to conduct the service, was refused admission. He entered a protest, and proceeded to the Gamble Institute, where he conducted service. Mr. MacRae's church was crowded to overflowing. He made a statement vindicating his occupation of the pulpit, on the ground that the decision came to by the synod in deposing him had no legal basis.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.—On Friday no less than five addresses were presented to Cardinal Newman congratulating him upon his recent elevation to the Cardinalate. The Duke of Norfolk read the address from the Catholics of Great Britain. The Cardinal replied and thanked him for the address, and also for the material help with which they were supplying him. The Marquis of Ripon presented an address on behalf of the Catholic Poor School Committee of Great Britain. He also presented an address from the sisters of the Convent of Notre Dame, Liverpool. Mr. G. Clifford presented an address from the Catholic Club, Savile-row, London. An address was presented by Mr. E. Lucas, from the Academia of Catholic Religion.

MR. GLADSTONE ON THE IRISH CHURCH AND IRISH EDUCATION.—Mr. Gladstone, having been accused of giving out of the spoil of the Irish Protestant Church no less than 369,040*l.* sterling, and of having released the trustees of the Maynooth College from a debt of 20,000*l.*, due by them to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, writes:—"August 13, 1879. Dear Sir,—I have never described the Irish Church as less free since her disestablishment. I have (if I remember right) said that she has used her freedom to restrain (somewhat) the freedom of thought in her members. The resolutions I moved in 1868 are on record; both they and the provisions of the Act of 1869 are now not my words only, but the words of Parliament. In my view they are perfectly consistent. Whether the Education Act of last year is consistent with them is a distinct question with which I have no particular concern at this time.—Your obedient servant, W. E. GLADSTONE."

A REMARKABLE AND SIGNIFICANT SERVICE took place in the city of Berne on Sunday, August 10, at the Catholic Church, which is now in the hands of the Swiss Old Catholics. Four bishops have lately assembled in Berne in order to take counsel of matters tending to the repair of the disunited condition of the various Christian Churches—Dr. Herzog, of Switzerland, Dr. Reinkens, of Germany, the Bishop of Utrecht, and the Bishop of Edinburgh. All the Swiss journals elevate the latter to an archbishop. The sermon was preached by M. Loyson (Father Hyacinthe), who unfolded his cherished conception of a reunion of all Christian confessions, on the broad basis of the primitive creed and constitution of the Church, each National Church preserving its own traditional characteristics and its independence. A Federal Church, not an Imperialist Church, was exhibited in the Christian ideal, with all the fervour and eloquence of the renowned orator. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Reinkens, assisted by the Bishop of Utrecht. The large church was thickly crowded to the doors. In the evening a meeting of Liberal Catholics was held at the Casino, at which addresses were delivered by Bishop Reinkens, Father Hyacinthe, Dr. Ziegler of the *Bund*, and the director of the Jura Railway, M. Jolissaint.—*Echo*.

CHURCH AND STATE IN FRANCE.—There is a prospect of a serious collision between the State and the Church in France. By the death of Monsignor Bataille the see of Amiens has become vacant, and by virtue of the Concordat it is the prerogative of M. Lepère, Minister of the Interior, to appoint a successor. By virtue of the same Concordat, M. Lepère's nominee must be approved by the Pope. M. Lepère has discovered a liberal and Gallican prelate, and has chosen him to be the head of the diocese of Amiens. The new bishop is the Abbé Chaillet. He was resident at Rome for twenty-three years, and was then a favourite with the Vatican. His actual opinions are such, however, that the Pope will probably refuse to approve the choice of the Government. Ministers have anticipated this refusal, and are resolved to maintain Abbé Chaillet's appointment. The whole of the French clergy will be dead against the new bishop, and the relations between the French Government and the Holy See may thereby be notably modified. The Papal Nuncio has, in the name of the Pope, made objections to the prelate selected by the Minister of Public Worship. Cardinal Bonnechose, who is not only an Ultramontane, but also a Bonapartist and Archbishop of Rouen, has likewise objected, for the Bishop of Amiens is his suffragan.

THE RECENT ENCYCICAL OF THE POPE.—In our last number we gave the substance of the Encyclical relative to philosophical studies in schools issued by Leo XIII., in which he exhorted all bishops and teachers, whilst prizing all truth by whomsoever taught, to seek to diffuse the golden teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas. It is stated that during the last fifty years at least the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas have been held at discount in the seminaries of Rome. The philosophic teaching imparted to the young has been drawn, according to the varying fashion of the day, from Grotius, Puffendorf, Descartes, or Kant. At present the textbook used in the Roman seminaries is the Philosophy of Corte, the late Professor of Philosophy at the University of Turin, whose system, based mainly on Rosinini's speculations, is taught likewise in the Government lycæums. From this species of compromise with modern thought the Pope would recall the instructors of Catholic youth back to the system of the angelic doctor. The result can only be to train up a generation of militant clergy, versed in scholastic method and dialectic debate, in order that they may cope with the Freethinker and Protestant—the very antitype, in a word, of the modern easy-going curé. It seems that the General of the Jesuits has been summoned to Rome to receive the order to conform to the Pope's new Encyclical letter. All this is quite contrary to the Jesuitical system of teaching. The whole Order is furious, but the Pope will hear no discussion on this subject, and the Jesuits must submit.

THE DOMESTIC LIFE OF LEO XIII.—Some curious particulars are given concerning the internal economy of the Papal Palace. It is stated that Leo XIII. during the last few months has become increasingly suspicious. He allows no one to enter his reserved apartments except his brother, Cardinal Pecci, and his three secretaries. He often works for hours in his bedroom, which he invariably looks up on leaving it. His thrift verges upon stinginess. "A thrifty Pope," says the Vatican proverb, "is never a beloved one." He has cut down the incomes of various cardinals, clerics, and officials, although the yield of Peter's Pence has considerably improved during the last few months. The "mass audiences," of which Pius IX. was so fond, and which he gave daily, but which were decreased to two a week by Leo immediately after his accession, are specially wearisome to him. He shows himself to be heartily tired of the burdensome ceremony. The audiences in the first year of his Pontificate were regularly held every Monday and Thursday; but this regularity has now ceased. Everyone who wishes to be admitted to audience is obliged to inscribe his name weeks beforehand, and even then is not secure of a reception. Leo XIII. lives entirely for work, and dislikes show and expense, to the no small vexation of the clerical and official hangers-on at the Vatican. Pius IX. always kept upon his writing-table two large silver branch candlesticks, which held many wax candles. These were never lighted more than once, and after one night's use became the perquisite of the attendants. Leo XIII., to the disgust of the servants, uses a

petroleum lamp; and the few candles which are used in his rooms are not allowed to be taken away till they are burned down to the socket.

Religious and Denominational News.

The Rev. James Smith, M.A., late of Sheffield (formerly of Hamburg), has accepted the pastorate of the church at Elloughton, Brough, E. Yorks.

Jefferson Park Church, Chicago, of which the Rev. F. L. Patton, D.D., has heretofore been stated supply, has given him a call to become pastor with a salary of 3,000dols.

The Rev. Timothy Harley, late of Savannah, U.S.A., has accepted the cordial invitation of the church assembling at John-street, Bedford-row, and commenced his ministry on Sunday last.

The pulpit of the Congregational Church, Bilston, Staffordshire, being now vacant, the Rev. D. J. Hamer, minister of Queen-street Church, Wolverhampton, has, at the request of the deacons and members, consented to take interim oversight of the church.

The Reformed Episcopal Church of America has now 9,448 communicants, an increase of 3,140 for the last year, the largest gain in any previous year except probably the first. There are 8,000 children in Sunday-schools, and 100 ministers. Fifteen new congregations were added last year, and six new church buildings were opened.

The death is announced of Madame Revel, of Florence, after a few days' serious illness. She was an active supporter of the Waldensian Church and the college in that city. The Waldensian schools in Florence were maintained wholly by her exertions in collecting funds, and they will also greatly feel her loss.

The Rev. J. Jackson Wray, who has just resigned his connection with the Wesleyan Conference, has engaged to preach at Christ Church, Westminster Bridge-road, on Sundays, Aug. 24 and 31, for the Rev. Newman Hall, who is now seeking rest and health on the Continent of Europe.—*Daily News*. [It may prevent misconception to state that Mr. Wray's resignation was voluntary, and entirely on private grounds.]

THE LATE REV. CLEMENT BAILLACHE.—The Baptist Mission House and Regent's Park College have this week been presented by Jeremiah Cowdy, Esq., with a handsomely framed autotype of the late Mr. Baillache, whose memory will long be cherished by the friends of both these institutions.

THE LATE REV. JOHN GRAHAM.—We regret to record the sudden and untimely death of the Rev. John Graham, of Brighton, formerly of Sydney, New South Wales, and for many years of Craven Chapel, London. Mr. Graham was on a visit to America, and on the 1st of the present month went out to bathe at Cape May, New Jersey, where he was staying. A correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, writing from Cape May, states that Mr. Graham ventured too far in the surf, and, getting out of his depth, was seized with panic. "The body," it is added, "was recovered through the brave efforts of Mr. Graham's niece, Miss Bessie Graham. She secured the drowning man, and clung to the pier with him until aid reached her, when Mr. Graham was found to be dead. The cause of his death is said to have been congestion of the heart resulting from fright." Mr. Graham's name (says the *English Independent*) is highly esteemed both here and at the Antipodes. His commanding presence, flowing eloquence, and many sterling qualities of mind and heart secured for him an honourable popularity in the important position which he held in London. During the twelve years of his residence in Sydney he was ready for every good work, and was in the front rank of the ministry in that part of the world. He has recently been working with great usefulness and success in Brighton, in the church of which he took charge as successor of the Rev. Henry Quick. Mr. Graham was fifty-seven years of age. His loss will be a severe blow to his congregation.

The success which has attended the issue of the *Magazine of Art* has induced the publisher to determine upon its enlargement, and preparations are being made to effect this change with the commencement of the new volume in October. The price of the magazine will remain unaltered.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—SURPASSINGLY EFFICACIOUS AS A RESTORATIVE MEDICINE AND FOOD.—Dr. Whitmore, Medical Officer of Health, St. Marylebone, writes:—"My own somewhat lengthened experience as a Medical Practitioner enables me with confidence to recommend Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil as being more uniform in quality, more certain in its effects, more palatable, and infinitely less likely to disagree with the stomach than the Pale Oil. The practice which often prevails of mixing certain ingredients with Cod Liver Oil, to render it agreeable to the taste, is highly objectionable, for we have it on the authority of Dr. de Jongh himself that anything which sophisticates it takes largely from its therapeutic value. If I were asked for an explanation of the marked success which for so many years has attended the administration of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, I should say that it is owing to its extraordinary medicinal, dietetic, and regenerative properties, and which are found to exist in no other medicine that I am acquainted with, in such uniform combination." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, 2s. 6d.; pints, 4s. 6d.; quarts, 8s.; with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists. Sole consignees, Ansar, Harford, and Co., 77, Strand, London.—[ADVT.]

REDUCTION OF EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS.

The following paper on this subject was read by Mr. RICHARD, M.P., at the conference of the Association for the Reform and Codification of the Law of Nations held on Friday last at the Guildhall:—

"It may be asked what relation the question of European Armaments has to the reform and codification of the Law of Nations. The answer is not far to seek. It may, indeed, be admitted that the relation is one of contrast rather than of affinity. If the object proposed by the labours of this Association be to bring civilised nations into fuller and more friendly connection with each other by assimilating their laws and preparing them for the acknowledgment of something like a common jurisdiction, account must be taken, not only of the influences which help, but also of those which hinder, this most desirable consummation. Undoubtedly the most formidable of those influences is the state of feeling on the part of the ruling Powers, which is symbolised by the present armed condition of Europe. Laws are silent in the midst of arms. And such a state of things as we witness now around us is practically a negation of all law. It is the consecration of brute force—which is the antithesis of law—as the supreme factor in the affairs of nations. There can be no international law while the nations are practically proclaiming to each other that might makes right, that the only law that really avails is the law of the strongest, to which all considerations of justice, reason, and religion must be subordinated. And thus we are conducted to the conclusion that there is a very close and vital relation between the aims and objects of this society and the question which I venture to bring before you.

"It deserves to be remarked that the science of International Law—if, indeed, we may venture to use the word 'science' in that connection—took its rise in the deep sense, entertained by the distinguished men to whom we are indebted for its origin, of the manifold and infinite evils of war. On this ground our Italian friends claim for Albericus Gentilis, who, even more than Grotius, deserves to be called the father and founder of this study, the honour of being one of the first promoters of international peace, since he was among the first to proclaim that principles of law should be applied in regulating the relations of States, in the place of mere physical force. Professor Valartini, in his valuable pamphlet on Albericus Gentilis, speaking of his work '*De Jure Belli*,' says:—'Instructed by the disorders and grave evils of many and divers wars, by the injuries they heaped on humanity, by the obstacles they placed in the way of civilisation and the progress of the human family, he invoked perpetual and universal peace in these memorable words, which close his treatise:—"May the good and great God put an end to all war, and establish the laws and the sacred compact of peace! Do thou, O God, bring all war to an end, and give us perpetual peace!"'

"Grotius also, in explaining his motive for undertaking his work, '*De Jure Belli et Pacis*,' says:—'I saw in the whole Christian world a license of fighting at which even barbarians might blush, wars begun on trifling pretexts, or none at all, and carried on without reverence for any Divine or human law, as if that one declaration of war let loose every crime.' In like manner the ideas which presided over the formation of this Association was a desire to find means for diminishing the frequency and mitigating the barbarity of war. Those gentlemen in the United States, with whom the movement originated which led to the present organised effort for the reform and codification of the law of nations, had long been earnestly engaged in the cause of international peace, and were prompted to this effort by very much the same feelings as those described by Grotius as having moved him to the preparation of his great work.

"It is not easy to give the statistics of European armaments, for they change from year to year, like the figures in a kaleidoscope, the change being always in the direction of increase. The *Times*, in an article which appeared two or three years ago, stated that the disposable force of the German Empire is 2,800,000.

And (continues the writer) the more Germany arms, the more does France, the more does Russia. The former now commands, under all heads, about a million and three-quarters of men; the latter, three millions and a third. Austria, Italy, Denmark, Holland, and Switzerland are arming as fast as they can. It is a universal strain on the energy and resources of the world. . . . A dozen millions of men cannot be withdrawn from common industry and civil duties, and engaged in the most costly and destructive of all employments, except to the continual loss and hindrance of the people.

"Of course in this estimate the various reserve forces are included. But probably we shall not exaggerate if we say that the number of men always under arms at one time cannot be less than between four and five millions. The pecuniary burdens which the war system imposes upon the nations may be divided into two parts—the interest upon the debts contracted by former wars and warlike preparations, and the cost of the present armaments. Mr. Dudley Baxter, in his work on '*National Debts*,' published in 1871, calculated that at that time the total indebtedness of Europe amounted to nearly 3,000 millions sterling, 88 per cent. of which had been required for war and warlike preparations and similar unproductive purposes. Since then there has been a large increase occasioned by the Franco-German and Russo-Turkish wars,

which were not included in his calculation. Of the cost of European armaments many estimates have been made. It is obvious that the mere amount of the naval and military budgets of the different nations offers only a very partial and inadequate representation of the sacrifices involved. A far more serious item than the money extracted from the pockets of the people by taxation is the enormous loss sustained by the withdrawal of so many millions of able-bodied men in the very vigour of their days from all the occupations of productive industry. For a soldier produces nothing, but only helps to consume the productions of other men. To this must be added the interest on the prodigious sums sunk in means and munitions of war, such as arms, accoutrements, fortifications, ships of war, &c., all of which are also absolutely unproductive. If we take these three items together, it may probably be affirmed with truth that the cost in all ways of European armaments cannot be less than 500 millions sterling per annum. If to this be added the interest, and cost of management, of the debts contracted by wars and warlike preparations, it would swell the sum to nearly 650 millions, taken annually from the capital and industry of nations to support the war system of Europe.

"The effect of all this is in every way deplorable and disastrous. The resources of all nations, whether derived from the gifts of nature or the rewards of industry, instead of being devoted to purposes of utility and advantage, to relieve the sufferings and to improve the moral and material wellbeing of the inhabitants, are wasted on the most unproductive and unprofitable of all uses. The people are borne down by intolerable burdens of taxation and military service, to escape from which many are compelled to expatriate themselves, to flee from their native land, and seek for rest and relief on foreign soil. Others, unable to emigrate, are driven in despair into wild and dangerous conspiracies directed against all authority, and threatening the foundations of society itself. The mauling of large bodies of young men in a condition of enforced celibacy in barracks and camps, removed from all the restraints of domestic life, and often exposed to the temptations of great cities, gives rise to an amount of vice and immorality which exerts a most disastrous influence on the moral and physical health of communities. Neighbour nations, who by their industry and commerce ought to be mutually helpful, and to live in peace and trust on each other's borders, are kept in a state of constant jealousy and irritation, suspecting each other of hostile designs, and nourishing towards each other sentiments of anger and animosity, for which often there is absolutely no foundation but the existence of these menacing armaments. Ambitious and unscrupulous rulers have in their hands an instrument of tremendous power, which they can wield at will, either in entering on foreign wars, in which neither the wishes nor the welfare of the people are consulted, or in suppressing the national liberties at home.

Montesquieu, 130 years ago, called attention to this evil, which since his time has developed into far more formidable proportions.

A new disease (he says) has spread throughout Europe; it has taken hold of princes, and led them to maintain an inordinate number of troops. It has its paroxysms, and becomes, necessarily, contagious; for as soon as one State augments its troops, the others forthwith augment theirs, so that they gain nothing but a common ruin. Each monarch keeps on foot as many armed men as he could have if his people were in danger of being exterminated, and they call this rivalry of all against all—Peace. Thus, Europe is so exhausted that if private individuals were in the same situation as the Great Powers, occupying the most opulent countries in the world, they could not live. We are poor with the riches and commerce of the whole universe, and very soon, by mere dint of having soldiers, we shall have nothing but soldiers, and become like the Tartars. The consequence of this state of things is a constant augmentation of taxes, and that which renders remedy impossible we no longer depend upon our revenue, but we make war with our capital.

The evils which Montesquieu foresaw and deprecated are coming to pass. More and more Europe is being converted into one huge camp, and among the male inhabitants nearly all are soldiers. With all the wealth which commerce has created there are millions of the people still in abject poverty. And it is also true that so prodigious is the expenditure in times of peace on preparations for war that when war comes we can no longer depend upon our revenue, but have to make war with our capital.

Is there no remedy for this system of folly and mutual ruin? All men but those who are directly interested in perpetuating it deplore and denounce it. But can we do nothing but murmur and moan, and stand by with folded hands, while we see the nations thus driven headlong on a path which cannot but ultimately lead to bankruptcy, revolution, and anarchy? A distinguished English statesman, the late Sir Robert Peel, pointed out, thirty-eight years ago, what ought to be done.

Is not the time (said he) come when the powerful countries of Europe should reduce those military armaments which they have so sedulously raised? What is the advantage of one Power greatly increasing its army and navy? Does it not see that if it possesses such increase for self-protection and defence, the other Powers will follow its example? The consequence of this state of things must be that no increase of relative strength will accrue to any one Power, but there must be a universal consumption of the resources of every country in military preparation. The true interest of Europe is to come to some common accord, so as to enable every

country to reduce those military armaments which belong to a state of war rather than of peace. I do wish that the councils of every country, or if the councils will not, that the public mind and voice would willingly propagate such a doctrine.

Some efforts have been already made in this direction. In the year 1851—the year of the first Great Exhibition in London—Mr. Cobden brought forward a motion in the house of Commons embodying the idea of mutual disarmament. It was a tentative and modest proposal, restricted to the relations of England and France, and was expressed in these words:—

That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that she will direct the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to enter into communication with the Government of France, and endeavour to prevent in future the rivalry of warlike preparations in time of peace, which has been the avowed policy of the two nations, and to promote, if possible, a mutual reduction of armaments.

"He was answered by Lord Palmerston in a very friendly and complimentary speech, who stated again and again that 'he adopted both the motion and speech of his honourable friend,' but he objected to being bound and fettered into a negotiation. 'I do not object,' he added, 'to the end he desires and proposes to accomplish, but I think that end is more likely to be accelerated by the language of the honourable member and the sentiments he and the House have expressed than it would by the particular and specific motion he has brought before us.' And so, in deference to the wishes of Lord Palmerston, the motion was not carried to a division. I have great pleasure in adding that on more than one occasion our present Prime Minister, Lord Beaconsfield, has urged the same idea with his usual force and eloquence. Speaking of England and France, in 1859, he said, 'Go to the Emperor of France and say to him, 'Prove by the diminution of your armaments that you are sincerely anxious for the peace of Europe and the world, and we will join you in the spirit of reciprocal confidence.' Let us terminate this disastrous system of wild expenditure by mutually agreeing, with no hypocrisy, but in a manner and under circumstances which will admit of no doubt, by the reduction of armaments, that peace is really our policy.'

"In 1861 the London Peace Society sent a deputation to Paris with an address to the people of France, which obtained very wide publicity through the Press in that country. In that address was the following passage:—

Why should not we, the people of England and France, unite to demand that some means be taken by our two powerful Governments to organise the peace of Europe by establishing a system of stipulated arbitration, or some other form of judicial reference, by which the disputes of nations may be submitted to the adjudication of reason and justice, instead of being left to the irrational and brutal arbitrament of the sword? Why should all the great civilised and Christian nations be seen for ever standing in an attitude of reciprocal distrust, exhausting their means by those enormous armaments with which they menace and affront each other during peace? Would it not be more consonant with reason and religion that they should mutually agree to reduce them, so that they may no longer see the immense wealth created by the skill and industry of our toiling millions, and the marvellous inventions in science and art which Providence has sent for the service of humanity, instead of being consecrated to relieve the misery and increase the comfort of the people, diverted to purposes of destruction?

"Probably the words of Mr. Cobden and Mr. Disraeli, and the address just cited, were not without their effect, for the next step that was taken in the matter was taken by the late Emperor of the French in 1863. It is not at all necessary here to discuss his character or policy. But I think we may give him credit for having been moved on the occasion to which I am about to refer by a noble and generous impulse. In the remarkable speech in which he first shadowed forth his intentions he said, 'Shall the jealous rivalries of the Great Powers unceasingly impede the progress of civilisation? Are we still to maintain mutual distrust by exaggerated armaments? Must our precious resources be indefinitely exhausted in a vain display of our forces?' Accordingly he proposed a Congress of all the European States, with a view, among other things, to agree on a reduction of armaments. It is known that this proposal for a Congress failed principally through the opposition of England, though, in the opinion of the late Lord Derby, 'if there was a country in all Europe that had less interest in sending a blank refusal to have anything to do with the Congress, it was England.'

"Some years ago one of our honoured colleagues of this association, M. Auguste Couvreur, member of the Belgian House of Representatives, occupied himself very earnestly with the question of a mutual reduction of armaments. He had an extensive correspondence with influential men in various countries of Europe. He came to England, and saw several of our distinguished politicians—among others, Mr. Gladstone, who wrote to him a letter full of sympathy with the object. If the writer of this paper may, without appearance of egotism, venture to make a personal allusion, he might refer to the fact that in 1869 he visited several of the capitals of Europe—including Paris, Brussels, the Hague, Berlin, Munich, Vienna, and Florence—to put himself in communication with members of different representative assemblies with a view to promote some concerted action in their respective Legislatures in favour of a mutual and simultaneous disarmament. The first fruit of that journey was a resolution proposed in the Prussian Chamber of Deputies by the distinguished philo-

sopher and statesman, Dr. Virchow, couched in these terms:—

That the Royal Government be requested to use all its influence with a view to reduce within the narrowest practicable limits the expenses of the military administration of the Northern Confederacy, and to seek to bring about by diplomatic negotiations a general disarmament.

"After a long and animated debate the motion was lost, though Dr. Virchow carried with him no fewer than ninety-nine votes. Soon after, a motion of similar import was proposed in the Chamber of Saxony, and carried by a large majority. In the English House of Commons, the late Mr. Charles Buxton signified his intention to make a proposition of the same nature, but ill-health, followed, not long after, by his lamented death, frustrated his purpose. In all probability the question would have been brought forward in several other European Legislatures had not the deplorable Franco-German war broken out and for a time put a stop to all motions and measures in favour of peace.

"Since then, however, the question has been revived, and considerably discussed in various quarters. In 1875 a series of able letters on the subject, in the *Neue Freie Presse* of Vienna, from the pen of Dr. Adolphe Fischhoff, attracted a good deal of attention. They were reproduced in the journals of various countries, and were translated into English and published in the *Herald of Peace*, and also in a separate pamphlet with a valuable introduction by our colleague Mr. W. H. Free-land. In Austria the subject was very seriously discussed by many members of the House of Representatives, and Deputy Fux undertook to introduce a motion expressing the hope that the Imperial and Royal Government will show its disposition in favour of peace, so frequently expressed, by using its best endeavours, for the sake of the general welfare, to promote the idea of such a general, proportionate, and simultaneous reduction of armies as would not affect the balance of power of the various States.

"There has been considerable correspondence also, and principally through the initiative of Dr. Fischhoff, with members of different European Parliaments, as to the expediency of a conference of representatives to concert measures for bringing the question of disarmament simultaneously before the different Legislatures with which they are connected. But untoward political events have interposed obstacles for the moment to the realisation of these projects. Now, however, that Europe is enjoying a lucid interval of peace, it may be hoped that the consideration of this subject may be resumed under happier auspices. Already an effort has been made in the German Parliament by Herr von Bülow, who moved that Prince Bismarck be requested to call a Congress of the Powers with the view of bringing about an effective disarmament. Though this proposal met with no great success, it may be taken as a significant indication of the general feeling of uneasiness and discontent which is fermenting in the hearts of nations under the terrible military incubus which weighs so heavily upon them.

"No doubt the difficulty of finding any plan for the mutual reduction of armaments is greatly aggravated since the system has been adopted of having not standing armies, but armed nations. But let the reason and conscience of humanity only speak out with sufficient emphasis, and means can be and will be found to cope with the evil. Indeed, the remedy after all seems simple enough. We have only to say to the Governments—Cease to do evil; agree among yourselves to build fewer ships and fortifications; to call fewer men out for military discipline and demonstration, and the work is done.

"I wish it were possible to enlist the earnest sympathies of the members of this Association in all countries in promotion of this great work of international reform.

"I approve cordially of all that is done by the Association in reference to what, however, I cannot regard as the 'weightier matters of the law' of nations. Anything that can be effected to bring different countries into accord on matters of copyright and patents, bills of exchange, general average, and questions of that sort, is a distinct gain not only in the interests of commerce, and invention, and literature, and art, but in the interests also of international peace. The more nations are brought into friendly connection with and dependence upon each other by assimilation of their laws and community of interest, the more are securities multiplied for the maintenance of friendly relations. But I hope I shall be forgiven if I say that I desire for this body some share in a larger and nobler work than this—in bringing the great communities of mankind, in their organised and collective capacity, to acknowledge the authority of a common law, and to take some steps, at least, towards the establishment of a general tribunal before which their differences may be adjudicated on principles of reason and justice, instead of by an appeal to the bloody arbitrament of the sword. I hope we shall do something to hasten on the time when civilised and Christian nations shall cease to waste by far the larger proportion of their enormous revenues in inventing and perfecting more and more deadly 'infernal machines,' and in training millions upon millions of their people to the work of mutual slaughter and rapine—that time, which, if the groans of suffering humanity, if the aspirations of the good and wise in all ages, if the tendencies of civilisation, if the voice of God mean anything, will come to pass 'when nation shall no longer lift

sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

M. C. F. STOLLMAYER (Trinidad) having expressed agreement with Mr. Richard's views, Mr. H. T. ATKINSON (Hull) objected to the question being brought before the Association. In his opinion they had nothing whatever to do with such a subject. He did not agree with Mr. Richard that our soldiers produced nothing. He looked upon them as the police, and a short time ago, when they went to Malta, especially those with black faces, they produced peace, as they showed the nations that we were prepared for war. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. F. PASSY (Paris) agreed that it would be possible to reduce the armaments of the nations by agreement, if only public opinion were resolute upon the matter.

Mr. ANDREW DUNN (London) thought that wherever there were armaments and military show the public mind was injured and carried forward to those horrible scenes of blood and warfare which they so much lamented.

Mr. FREELAND had always believed that one great object of the Association was to protect the weak against the strong, and to substitute right for might. What security was there for that substitution in the presence of the enormous and annually increasing armaments, which threatened the peace of Europe, which exhausted the resources and the reproductive energies of the people, armaments against which Mr. Richard rightly called upon them to enter that emphatic protest in which he believed they would heartily join. (Hear, hear.)

After a few words from Professor LEONE LEVI, Mr. RICHARD, in reply, said that he was surprised at the view Mr. Atkinson had taken, as the association originally sprang from the American Peace Society, whose cardinal object was to do something to mitigate the frequency and barbarity of war. He then proposed to submit the following resolution:—

That this conference deeply deprecates the system of armed rivalry which prevails among the States of Europe, which not only imposes impressive burdens of taxation and military servitude on the people, but tends to nourish mutual suspicion and jealousy between the nations, to perpetuate the reign of force in place of the reign of law, and to render peace insecure and war always imminent; that the conference approves of efforts made to bring about a mutual and simultaneous reduction of armaments, and recommends its members in all countries to labour to that end; that a committee be appointed to consider the expediency of addressing a respectful memorial to the various Governments on this subject, and generally to examine and report on the best means of applying a remedy to mitigate this crying evil.

Mr. ATKINSON objected to the resolution being put, as no notice had been given of it. If persisted in, he would move the previous question.

After some further discussion, Mr. RICHARD withdrew his resolution, and proposed that his paper be referred to a committee, in order that it might be considered and reported upon at the next conference. This was agreed to unanimously.

THE ZULU WAR.

The Dublin Castle has brought news from the Cape to Madeira down to the 29th of July. Sir Garnet Wolseley has telegraphed to the War Office that Cetewayo had lately sent messengers of inferior rank with offers to surrender if his life were spared. To these messages replies have been sent promising not only personal safety but good treatment; but the general has reason to believe that the messengers were only spies sent to ascertain the movements of the white men. A special despatch from Port Durnford of the 23rd ult. says it was reported at Capetown on the 29th of July that Cetewayo was in the Umvolosi swamps with his army, and intended to fight. Sir G. Wolseley's operations are being arranged with the object of causing the Zulu King to surrender, or to capture him. The re-advance of the British was to commence on the 3rd of this month, one column, under Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, starting from Durnford, and the other, under Colonel Baker Russell, from Rorke's Drift.

Dr. W. H. Russell sends the following despatch to the *Daily Telegraph*, dated Durban, July 27, in which he says:—"It is not easy to say whether there will be peace or war in Zululand. One thing is certain, and that is that military demonstrations there are considered necessary. Lord Chelmsford and staff, with the exception of Gossett, embark in the German. For them the war is over. There is to be a concentration of troops in the Transvaal, in addition to the flying columns under Baker Russell and Harrison Clarke moving through Zululand; but Sir Garnet Wolseley has modified the plans so far as regards the strength of the column marching on Ulundi. The 4th Regiment occupies Luneberg; the 2nd Battalion of the 24th, Utrecht; the 21st, Landman's Drift; the 58th, Koppe-Allein; the 13th will embark for home; the Lanciers will march to Pinetown, and there receive further orders; the 3rd Buffs will await directions for embarkation at Utrecht. One squadron of the Dragoons will join Baker Russell and another will remain at Pretoria, where Legrice's battery is also ordered, Sandham remaining at Port Durnford for the present. A troop of Dragoons will serve as escort to the chief, Clarke, with the 57th, the 3rd Battalion of the 60th Rifles, a detachment of the 80th, a Gatling battery of two guns, three squadrons of the mounted infantry, some local horse, and one battalion of natives, will

leave Port Durnford on the 4th, marching via St. Paul's, Kwamagwasa, and Emtongani (Magnibonum). There the troops will form an entrenched post, and clear the country from Ulundi to the sea, thence pushing reconnaissances towards the supposed retreat of Cetewayo. This force will be joined by Sir Garnet Wolseley on the 10th, being supplied by convoys from Foot Newdigate. Baker Russell will move from the new post on the White Umvolosi, called Fort Cambridge, near Conference Hill, with a mixed force of Dragoons, Lonsdale's Horse, natives, Harness's Battery, and four battalions of infantry, and will reconnoitre in the direction of Intabankula, where an entrenched position will be formed whence our men will scour the country towards the Black Umvolosi. Sir Garnet Wolseley's instructions state that Cetewayo's army having broken up, and the great bulk of the enemy having dispersed, the primary object of the military operations now undertaken is to cause Cetewayo to surrender, or to capture him, as the country cannot remain at peace as long as he remains at large. He is supposed to have but a small following of men, but a great number of women, and large herds of cattle. It is thought probable that he will desert the women, or be deserted by them. Macleod, with 5,000 Swazies and 200 white mounted men, is about to move across the Pongola, down the Black Umvolosi, through the Ngome Forest. Captain Fryer is directed to join him at Derby. Oham, accompanied by Villiers, is preparing to re-enter his own country, and, it is hoped, will be welcomed by the people and petty leaders. If he acts well he will be made chief. It is to be borne in mind that all future operations are to obtain a peaceable settlement of the country, and every inducement is to be held out for the enemy to submit without fighting. The policy to be employed towards the chiefs has also been explained by Sir Garnet Wolseley. The Zulu military system is broken up, and the old laws restored; arms are to be surrendered, and the King's cattle given up; officers are to endeavour to communicate with Cetewayo's prominent advisers and others, who will be made independent chiefs if they surrender forthwith. Final arrangements are to be communicated at a great meeting to be held at Ulundi. There is to be no relaxation of precautions day or night, and scouting is insisted upon, as the military character of the occupation is still urgent. The northern chiefs have not come in as yet, and Cetewayo, rejecting the mere offer of life, still holds out. Many special officers will return home. Captain R. Talbot has been transferred from the transport department to Baker Russell, to whom Captain Bashman acts as staff-officer. Doyle and Paterson are at Durban; Maurice, M'Calmont, and the headquarter staff are on the march to Greytown; Bigg is at Durban; and Wood and Buller are starting for home. Sir Garnet Wolseley does not return here, but after settling Zululand will proceed to Pretoria to look after Transvaal matters."

Another correspondent, telegraphing from Port Durnford on July 23, says:—"A flying column starts for Ulundi on Thursday. Intelligence has just been received assuring a permanent peace settlement."

An outline of the circumstances attending the resignation of Lord Chelmsford has reached this country. It is stated that a day or two before the attack on Ulundi, and at the crisis of Lord Chelmsford's operations, he received a telegram from Sir G. Wolseley disapproving of the plan of the campaign and requesting him to concentrate the forces. Before sunset the following day Ulundi was destroyed. On the next day his lordship received a telegram from the Secretary of State informing him that the supreme command had been given to Sir Garnet Wolseley, and the next day came another order from Sir Garnet changing Lord Chelmsford's military arrangements and limiting his authority. The same day Lord Chelmsford sent home his official account of the battle of Ulundi, accompanied by his resignation. Two days afterwards there was a parade of troops, when the general thanked them for the courage and steadiness they had displayed; and the following day the second division and the flying column retraced their steps and proceeded to Kwamagwasa.

Letters have been received by the Aborigines Protection Society which state that Prince Napoleon's sword was sent in to Lord Chelmsford by Cetewayo in consequence of a communication from Bishop Colenso and his son. The Bishop believes this was done from pacific motives; and, further, that Cetewayo was wholly unable to comply with the conditions imposed by Lord Chelmsford, namely, that he should by July 3 send in the two guns and 1,000 rifles captured at Isandula, and 10,000 head of cattle.

An address of condolence, numerous signed, has been received by the Empress Eugenie from the inhabitants of Natal in reference to the death of the late Prince Imperial. The corporations of Maritzburg and Durban have also sent addresses to Her Imperial Majesty.

The *Record* states that the first number of the *Churchman* (the new Evangelical magazine) will contain articles by Canons Kyle and Garbett on the "Evangelical School of the Church of England," an article on the "Irish University Bill" by Mr. Holt, M.P., and one by Canon Hoare on the "Church Missionary Society." Canon Tristram also contributes a paper on "Some Practical Results of the Revision of the Authorised Version."

Correspondence.

THE TANGANYIKA MISSION.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—The directors have been awaiting with much anxiety the arrival of the African mail from Zanzibar that they might know how it fared with the members of our Central African Mission. I regret to have to report that the mail brings no letters from our brethren, only one from our agents, who express some surprise that they have no correspondence to send home. They give us, however, a little comforting information that will be welcomed by our friends and constituents throughout the country.

They tell us it is evident that our young missionary brother, the Rev. Arthur Dodgshun, about whom we had many fears, has arrived safely at Ujiji, as two of his bearers had brought an order from him to our agents for the payment of some arrears due to them, and that on March 28 last "they left the white men at the Lake Tanganyika, all in good health."

The agents also state that from native reports they learn that Dr. Mullens and his companions are going on their way to the interior successfully; and, by a portion of Mr. Southon's diary that has come to hand, we find that by the 20th of June the party had reached Kikwazo, or nearly one-third of the distance from the coast to Mpwapwa. Hence, though the tidings are scanty, we are thankful to know they are reassuring, leaving us to hope for fuller and more satisfactory news by the next mail.

Believe me, yours truly,

ROBERT ROBINSON, Home Sec.

London Missionary Society, Blomfield-street,
London Wall, E.C., Aug. 18, 1879.

BASLE CONFERENCE.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—May we request the favour of being allowed to bring to the notice of your readers that the Seventh General Conference of Christians of all Nations will assemble (p.v.) at Basle from the 31st inst. to the 7th of September, in connection with the Evangelical Alliance.

The Council of the Alliance earnestly appeal to all who love the Lord Jesus Christ, and seek the advancement of true vital religion throughout the world, to unite together in every place in prayer and supplication that it may please God so abundantly to visit this conference with the spirit of wisdom, love, and power, that a great impulse may be given to the progress of the Gospel and to the revival of His Church in every land. There is every prospect of a very large gathering of the Lord's people from all parts of Europe, the United States, &c., &c.

We remain, Sir, faithfully yours,

J. FIELD, Major-Gen., C.B. } Secs.
A. J. ARNOLD, }

Evangelical Alliance, 7, Adam-street, Strand,
London, Aug. 18, 1879.

Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin, and Co. will publish next month, in two volumes, "The Life of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone," by Mr. George Barnett Smith. The work will be illustrated by two steel portraits, one being engraved from a portrait painted by Joseph Severn in 1840, and the other from a fine photograph taken during the present year.

The *New York Nation* announces that Messrs. G. P. Putnam and Sons will shortly issue a rejoinder to Mr. Mallock's "Is Life Worth Living?" "from the pen of a well-known writer."

"Abraham Lincoln and the Abolition of Slavery" is the title of a biography to be published in September by Messrs. Marcus Ward and Co. The volume forms one of the "New Plutarch" Series of lives of men and women of action, and the writer is Mr. Charles G. Leland.

According to the *Manchester Guardian*, strong efforts are about to be made to induce Principal Tulloch to come to London to reside, either as successor to Dr. Cumming in Crown-court Chapel, or as pastor of a new church in connection with the Scotch Establishment. It is thought that, as editor of *Froser's Magazine* in its new character of organ of Broad Church Liberalism, he might occupy a position similar to that of Dr. Henry Allon among Nonconformists. Arrangements will in this event be made whereby Dr. Tulloch may continue to discharge his numerous duties in Scotland by residing in it for some portion of the year. Should he consent to this scheme, it is considered probable that the proposal for the erection of a Presbyterian church on the Thames Embankment, which was abandoned some time ago, will be revived under Broad Church auspices, for it is an open secret that Dean Stanley considers Dr. Tulloch the most able man in either of the two Establishments to act as the defender of both.

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HY. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1879.

THE WEEK.

THE protracted and dreary session of Parliament, which began in December and was resumed after the Christmas holidays about the middle of February, came to an end on Friday last, August 15. The construction of the Prorogation Speech exhibits much of that skill in putting the best face on matters for which the Prime Minister is celebrated. We have in it the bare facts dressed up after the fashion of a Disraelian romance, and upon the almost resultless labours of Parliament "the blessing of Providence" is, with a peculiar touch of irony, invoked. The Royal Speech, after reference to the "cordial relations" with other Powers, speaks of the influence that will be used "in maintaining the obligations of treaties, and in promoting and consolidating the general peace," as though a great work yet remained to be done which none but Her Majesty's present advisers could successfully carry out. In reference to Eastern Roumelia, stress is laid upon the fact that it is still "an Ottoman province," and Her Majesty's approval of the election of Prince Alexander as Prince of Bulgaria is recorded. It is admitted that the proposed Turkish reforms have not been carried out, and the hope is expressed that the Porte will offer "a timely compliance with its engagements in this respect"—a most delicate mode of indicating that there is in existence an Anglo-Turkish Convention. Much is made of the close of the Afghan campaign resulting in a treaty by which "friendly relations with that State are re-established, guarantees for its peace and safety given, and the frontiers of India strengthened"—statements which greatly conflict with the opinions recently expressed on the subject by Sir H. Rawlinson. The paragraphs relative to the change in the Viceroyalty of Egypt and to the Zulu war are judiciously phrased, and those which characterise the meagre domestic legislation of the session are a model of ingenuity.

One of these has reference to the commission for inquiring into the depressed condition of the agricultural interest, to what causes it is owing, and how far it can be remedied by legislation. The names of the commissioners have been published. The Duke of Richmond being at their head implies that the somewhat delicate inquiry will be shaped according to the wishes of the Government; and the grand scale on which its operations are to be conducted, extending to foreign countries and the United States, portends a protracted inquiry. A year hence, at the earliest, when the general election is over, our farmers will be in possession of a vast body of information. Many of them hanker after legislation—the Government will, in due time, give them a ponderous Blue-book! Meanwhile the Earl of Suffolk and Mr. Kingscote wisely recommend their agricultural friends to discard all idea of a return to protection, for a new corn-law is out of the question.

The obedient peers swallowed at one gulp and without a word the important amendments introduced into the University Education (Ireland) Bill, which received the royal assent before the session closed. Great curiosity is felt as to the composition of the new Senate, to which such responsible powers will be delegated, and as to the extent to which the Senate of the Queen's University will be represented. One or two Irish Ultramontane journals threaten further action with a view to increase Roman Catholic influence. But the Papal hierarchy on the other side of St. George's Channel will probably await the scheme drafted by the new Senate before pressing their further demands.

There seems, happily, to be no doubt of the great and general revival of business in the United States. According to the American cor-

respondent of the *Times* the improvement first appeared in the coal and iron districts of Pennsylvania and Ohio. "Already all the furnaces are in full blast; the output of coal is increased; wages have been raised, and must be raised still more, for strikes are only avoided by timely concessions. Railway works and railway workmen are following suit; and the wave of prosperity has reached the cotton industries of Connecticut and Rhode Island." This decided revival of trade across the Atlantic is beginning to tell in this country. It is stated that orders are coming to England for iron productions; the American manufacturers, even with their heavy protective tariff, being unable to supply the rapidly-increasing demand. Reports are unusually cheering from the Cleveland district, South Wales, Sheffield, where orders are brisk, and Birmingham, where business is gradually improving in the hardware branches, and railway rolling-stock is in demand. Even in respect to the cotton, woollen, flax, and other leading trades, the feeling is cheerful and prospects improving, although the actual state of business is far from being active. We can hope, without confidently predicting, that a period of steady revival is about to follow the five long years of depression in nearly all departments of business.

Much depends upon the weather at this critical period of the year, and who will be bold enough, with present experiences, to predict prolonged sunshine? The fine days of last week are reported to have had a most beneficial effect on the crops, but they have been succeeded by adverse atmospheric influences—storms, floods, and drenching rains, which seem to be far from exhausted, and will tend to retard if not to spoil the harvest. Thus the reports of last week as to the crops—so variable is the weather—will not now apply. We can only hope that September will be more favourable to the complete ripening of the precious fruits of the earth than August has been. When it is remembered how seriously the condition of millions of our population is affected by the quality and quantity of the crops gathered in, a decided improvement in our industrial position can hardly be expected unless we have assurance of a fair harvest—for abundant it cannot be.

The frequent reports as to the retirement of Count Andrassy, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, are confirmed. This veteran statesman only retains office till his successor is appointed. It is thought that either Count Karyoli or Count Szechenyi—both men of moderate opinion—will succeed to that responsible position. Count Andrassy has guided the foreign relations of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy for the long period of ten years, and through crises of great complexity. His policy of redressing his country's territorial losses by acquisitions in other directions has not been unsuccessful, though Bosnia and Herzegovina are no great present gain to the Austrian Empire. The Chancellor played a skilful part during the perilous phases of the Eastern Question, and strove hard, by the suggestions of the celebrated Andrassy Note—rejected by us alone of all the European Powers—to prevent the outbreak of war. He has also managed, during the last year or two, to have drawn closer the ties between Germany and Austria. There is no authentic statement as to the causes of his retirement, though failing health and the desire for rest are assigned. But the Emperor is said to be bent upon having a like-minded successor, and to be averse to aught that savours of reaction.

The news from the Cape to July 28 indicates increased military activity in Zululand—Lord Chelmsford's victory at Ulundi not having produced the desired results. "It is not easy to say whether there will be peace or war in Zululand," says Dr. Russell. "One thing is certain, and that is that military demonstrations there are still considered necessary." Troops were being concentrated in the Transvaal, flying columns were moving through the King's dominions, and a larger force than was at first thought to

be necessary is to converge on Ulundi, where Sir Garnet Wolseley had summoned the chiefs to meet him on August 10. To them it will be explained that the Zulu military system is broken up, and the old laws restored, and that arms were to be surrendered, and the King's cattle given up. Officers were to endeavour to communicate with Cetewayo's prominent advisers and others, who would be made independent chiefs if they surrendered forthwith. The Commander-in-Chief himself telegraphs to the Home Government that Cetewayo had lately sent messengers of inferior rank to some of our posts, saying he wished to surrender, but feared being killed. Answers had been sent advising surrender, promising not only personal safety, but good treatment. Sir Garnet says he had reason to believe these messengers were only spies sent to ascertain the movements of the British troops.

Amongst the arrivals at Plymouth by the Dublin Castle, in addition to Mr. Archibald Forbes—who, we regret to learn, is suffering from a neglected wound—is Lord William Beresford, who took a conspicuous part in the battle of Ulundi. His lordship, who, according to the modern custom, has been "interviewed," expresses the opinion that the new advance upon that position was really due to the fears of the chiefs who had surrendered that they would be left to settle accounts with the King; that so far as actual fighting is concerned, the conflict is at an end, or can only take the shape of a guerilla war; and that Cetewayo must soon recognise the actual situation. There seems to be no doubt that the Zulu potentate has been throughout badly used or perversely misunderstood. Bishop Colenso, who ought to know, vouches for his pacific intentions; but when a king becomes a fugitive after being engaged in what he, as well as others, regards as a patriotic conflict, the least his conquerors can do is to offer him generous terms. We cannot suppose that Sir Garnet Wolseley will, unless overborne, act otherwise.

If recent reports from Constantinople are to be credited, the royal promise that the Porte shall be urged to fulfil its treaty obligations does not hold out the hope of much result. The Sultan, a year after the signature of the Treaty of Berlin, has only just appointed Commissioners to discuss the new Greek frontier, and their instructions are believed not to comprise an acceptance of the boundary indicated by Congress. It is stated in a letter which recently appeared in a German newspaper that the Sultan "is haunted by childish dreams; he never sleeps in the same bed two nights running; all his food has to be tasted beforehand in his presence; in every insignificant sign he sees a plot; he only ventures out once a week to the nearest mosque; and trusts nobody but the higher eunuchs and higher Palace servants, who are incessantly robbing him. Among the higher functionaries reign bribery and debauchery; among the lower misappropriation and cheating; on either side sloth and incapacity. Among the lower officials, officers, and army surgeons misery has reached a point incomprehensible to Europeans. In the greatest hospitals of Constantinople the most necessary medicaments are wanting, and no solicitations of the physicians are successful in obtaining the means to supply the need." In the provinces soldiers are going about in rags, selling their swords and guns to buy food, for the Government does not pay the purveyors, who have consequently stopped their supplies. As for the nation in general, it is, we are told, in a state of desperation. In this extremity the Sultan and his family, scornfully repudiating Western advice, are said to have come to the sapient conclusion that Mahmoud Nedim, the incarnation of Turkish vices, is the "only man" capable of saving the dynasty and the Empire from destruction. Sir Henry Layard was unable to prevent the downfall of Khairuddin Pasha, and his influence is not likely to avert the return to power of Mahmoud Nedim.

A LAST LOOK FROM THE GALLERY.

(By our Parliamentary Correspondent.)

The long session, which was brought to a close on Friday with the antique usages of the prorogation, is not one upon which many directly concerned are likely to look back with pleasure. It is difficult to say whom the session has benefited. No particular personal reputation has been made, and more than one has been lost. Lord Hartington cannot be said to have had a very pleasant time of it, though he has increased the favourable opinion of his possibilities as a statesman which the public have been slowly forming during the past six years. But Lord Hartington has undergone one or two experiences that will not gild the session for him. He has at last shaken himself free from an annoyance that threatened to become serious in the earlier days of the Parliament. The Conservatives had a way of patronising the leader of the Opposition, which, though possibly well-meant, was invariably offensive. They were accustomed to use Lord Hartington's stolidity as a foil for the restlessness of Mr. Gladstone. Sir Walter Barttelot in particular took the Leader of the Opposition under his wing, and was in the habit of paying him compliments, till one night Lord Hartington turned upon the worthy but not very wise baronet, and crushed him with a few fiercely-polished sentences.

Lord Hartington has grown out of this position of being patronised by his political opponents, than which it would be impossible to conceive a more desirable thing. But during the past session he has had to take account with a section of his own party. He has encountered Mr. Chamberlain, or rather Mr. Chamberlain has taken upon himself to attack the noble lord, thus creating one of the most notable and significant incidents of a session which had many episodes. Mr. Chamberlain himself is amongst the few members who have some reason to be glad that there was a session in 1879. The hon. member for Birmingham has to struggle in the House of Commons against the conviction that he is inclined to move too fast—not politically, but personally. Members who have been in the race for a session or two do not like to see a young man (albeit thrice Mayor of Birmingham) who shows a disposition to have a finger in every pie, and, if possible, to have a whole hand in it. Mr. Chamberlain has played a somewhat dangerous game. This haste to acquire a position in the House would, in a man of inferior ability, have hopelessly frustrated his purpose. But Mr. Chamberlain is a man of very marked ability. He is clear-headed, quick-witted, and though never rising to the heights of oratory, is a polished speaker who has very rapidly acquired the indefinable prize known as "the House of Commons manner." His speech on South African affairs showed what some people were rather curious to see demonstrated, that he can do something more than take a ready part in a chance debate. He thoroughly mastered an intricate subject, and presented it in all its bearings in a well-sustained and clearly-argued speech.

Yet another member who has advanced with the session is Sir Charles Dilke. No one has doubted for some time back that Sir Charles means at no distant day to hold an official position in the House. Had there been any doubt on the subject, his speech on the foreign policy of the Government would have removed it. It was one of the most masterful and complete essays which the House had listened to for a long time. It seemed to leave nothing for anyone else to say, and certainly has never been answered by any Minister responsible for the policy it attacked.

If we add Mr. Shaw to the list who have made their mark during the session, we shall have gone to the fullest limit possible. Mr. Shaw's success has been of a kind quite different from any other of those mentioned. He has, perhaps, triumphed in a manner even more remarkable. The death of Mr. Butt and the internal dissensions of the Home Rulers bequeathed to him the thankless and delicate task of leading the Home Rule party. The Home Rulers, jealous of any particular advantage possessed by any other section of the House, insisted upon having a leader. But they, none the less, maintain the private reservation that they are not bound to follow him. Their system of discipline is exceedingly simple. If their leader happens to take a course conformable with their own views they will follow him. If he hits upon one that does not exactly please them they "repudiate" him. It has been found difficult to "repudiate" Mr. Shaw. In the first place he is a man of singularly sound judgment. When he adopts or recommends a certain course, the chances are

ten to one that it is the right one. Then his good humour is impregnable and contagious. He has a large fund of quiet humour which diffuses itself in gentle rays throughout the House, and his opponent finds himself laughing when he ought to be contesting. The passage through the House of the Irish University Bill is largely due to Mr. Shaw's quiet influence. Regarding the measure with eyes unblinded by passion or prejudice, he saw in it the possibility of getting some very substantial advantage for Irish Catholics. He could not succeed in securing the active participation of Mr. Parnell and Mr. Biggar. But he at least succeeded in inducing them to refrain from active opposition; the net result of his labours being that Ireland has got an Act with which the hierarchy have admitted themselves well satisfied—at least for the present.

For the rest the session is a story of angry recrimination, undignified squabbling, ill-considered adventure, inadequate performance, and haphazard legislation. The Government have passed those bills which, at the commencement of the session, they had no intention of passing, and have omitted to carry through bills upon which they had set their hearts. The Army Regulation Bill has proved the lean kine, and has swallowed up a host of better favoured cattle. We shall probably, during the recess, hear a good deal about this bill and of its beneficent intentions. But it will be well to remember that the measure which has been added to the Statute Book is very different from the one introduced at the beginning of the session, and which was ominously foreshadowed by the *Times* under a curious and never-yet-explained misapprehension that it was intended to dispense with the necessity for the annual Mutiny Bill. What is good in the bill has been mainly added to it against the will of the Government, and much that was bad in the original drafts has been rejected. In this measure, and in the history of its struggle through the House there may be found written evidence of the aimlessness of purpose and the happy-go-lucky style of management which have marked the Ministerial direction of the session of 1879.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

Parliament was prorogued by Commission on Friday afternoon. The Lord Chancellor read the Queen's Speech as follows:—

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be able to relieve you from your laborious duties.

My relations with other Powers continue to be cordial, and my influence with them will be employed in maintaining the obligations imposed by treaties, and in promoting and consolidating the general peace.

The territorial arrangements stipulated in the Treaty of Berlin have been faithfully executed, and the delimitation of the new frontiers is nearly completed. The Balkan Peninsula has been evacuated by the Russian army in accordance with the treaty. Under the unanimous sanction of the Signatory Powers, suitable provision has been made for the government of the Ottoman province of Eastern Roumelia, and I have with great satisfaction given my approval to the election of Prince Alexander of Battenberg as Prince of Bulgaria.

The calamities inflicted by the late war have hitherto precluded the adoption of those reforms by the Ottoman Government of which it has acknowledged the necessity; but I have urged, and shall continue to urge, the importance of a timely compliance with its engagements in this respect.

At the suggestion of my Government, in conjunction with that of France, a change has taken place in the Viceroyalty of Egypt, which the past misgovernment of that country had rendered necessary.

The treaty concluded with the Ameer of Afghanistan which has been laid before you has happily terminated the war which his predecessor compelled me to undertake. By it my friendly relations with the State are re-established, guarantees for its peace and safety given, and the frontiers of India strengthened.

The ability displayed in this war by those in command of my troops, British and native, and the gallantry and endurance of the troops themselves, well deserved the thanks bestowed upon them by both Houses of Parliament. My acknowledgements are especially due to the many native princes who made offers of assistance, as well as to those whose forces were actually brought into the field, and I recognise in such zealous co-operation their attachment and goodwill to my Indian Empire.

Since I last addressed you my forces have been engaged in a serious conflict with the most powerful native ruler in South Africa. While I have pleasure in thanking them for vindicating the honour of the British arms, I must mourn over the sacrifice of many a precious life. I trust that the decisive success which has recently attended their operations will lead to the early establishment of peace on an enduring basis, and that my subjects in that part of the world, being thus relieved from the danger to which they have hitherto been exposed, may readily join in such arrangements as may best secure their safety and prosperity in the future.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,
I thank you for the liberal supplies which you have voted for the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

By the Army Discipline Act you have for the first time placed upon the Statute Book in a complete code the laws relating to service in my army and my other military forces. You have arranged in a clear and comprehensive form the provisions for the due maintenance

of discipline; you have improved the system under which enlistment takes place; and you have amended the regulations under which the Reserves can be called to the colours.

The Acts providing for the appointment of a Public Prosecutor and amending the law relating to the Summary Jurisdiction of Magistrates will, I trust, greatly improve the administration of the Criminal Law.

The alterations which you have made in the law relating to Banking and Joint Stock Companies are well calculated to conduce to the prosperity of this important portion of our mercantile and commercial system.

The depressed condition of the agricultural interest has mainly engaged your attention, and I have had much pleasure in complying with the address of the House of Commons requesting me to appoint a commission to inquire into the causes to which the depression is owing, and how far they can be remedied by legislation.

I observe with satisfaction that you have been able to consider the important subject of education in Ireland, and that you have agreed to measures which will form a fitting supplement to the enactment of last session as to intermediate education. The primary education of the country cannot but be stimulated by the careful provision you have made for improving the position of the teachers, and the bill you have passed for University Education will, I trust, supply what is needed for the advancement of learning in its higher branches.

In bidding you farewell, I pray that the blessing of Providence may rest on the labours with which you have been occupied during the session.

PARLIAMENTARY CHANGES.

The Parliament which, for the sixth time, was prorogued on Friday afternoon, assembled at Westminster on the 5th March, 1874, on which day the writs had been made returnable. At the end of its sixth session it was therefore five years five months, and ten days old. Its predecessor, which was dissolved during the Premiership of Mr. Gladstone on the 26th January, 1874, had lasted five years, one month, and sixteen days, and the Parliament which was dissolved in 1868 had an existence of three years, two months, and twenty-seven days. The present assembly is therefore the longest lived since the Parliament summoned by Lord Derby on the 31st May, 1859, and dissolved by Lord Palmerston on the 6th July, 1865, six years, one month, and six days. So far as the present Parliament is concerned, although the present session witnessed comparatively few changes, taking its life as a whole, the number of new members returned is equal to that which has often come back from the country as the result of a general election. Of the changes which have combined to bring about these changes, death, resignation, and accession to the peerage are the principal. Fifty-nine members have died—four in 1874, twelve in 1875, fourteen in 1876, eight in 1877, fifteen in 1878, and six thus far in 1879. Mr. Charles Gilpin was the first member removed by death. Captain Stapoole was the last. Up to the end of 1877 the mortality was greatest amongst the Conservative party, but since the beginning of 1878, of the twenty-one members who have died only seven were supporters of the Administration, the remainder being divided between the Liberals and the Home Rulers, a much smaller body in the House of Commons. Of the six deaths this year three were amongst the Home Rulers and two amongst the Liberals. The only Conservative member who has died since the beginning of 1879 was Mr. Whitelaw.

The Parliamentary changes of 1879 have been very few, only fourteen elections having taken place since the beginning of the year, and even of these three were legacies from 1878. This is in remarkable contrast to the experience of last year, when forty vacancies arose. Of the fourteen elections in 1879, seven were in England, five in Ireland, and two in Scotland. The English constituencies returning new members were North Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, South Warwick, East Somerset, Cokermonth, East Cumberland, and Canterbury. Five Conservatives and two Liberals were thus sent to the House of Commons, the two Liberals being the choice of Cumberland constituencies. The five new Irish members—Colonel Colthurst, Mr. Justin McCarthy, the O'Gorman Mahon, Mr. Gabbett, and Mr. Pincanot with the Home Rule party. The two vacancies filled in Scotland were those of the Haddington Burghs and the city of Glasgow, a Liberal being elected in each instance, and in the case of Glasgow replacing a Conservative without opposition. Through the accession of Viscount Macduff to the Earldom of Fife, there is a vacancy now to be filled in the representation of the united counties of Elgin and Nairn.

Only two members have this year retired from Parliamentary life—Major Allen and Mr. Majendie—as compared with four in 1875, nine in 1876, four in 1877, and ten in 1878. With respect to the peerage, it may be mentioned that twenty-one members of the House of Commons have vacated their seats through elevation to the House of Lords; the most prominent names in the list of creations are those of Colonel Wilson-Patten, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Disraeli, Sir C. B. Adderley, and Mr. Gathorne Hardy.

Other causes which contributed in previous years to produce changes in the composition of the House of Commons—such as elevation to the judicial bench and appointments to civil, naval, and military offices—have been in operation thus far in 1879 only in one instance. The members who have become judges are five in number—Dr. Ball, Lord Chancellor of Ireland; Mr. Huddleston, Judge in the Exchequer Division; Sir R. Baggeallay, Lord Justice of Appeal; Mr. E. S. Gordon, Lord Ordinary; and

Mr. Lopes, Judge in the Common Pleas Division. A similar number have received appointments rendering necessary the resignation of their seats—Admiral Elliott, the Naval Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth; Sir Seymour Fitzgerald, Chief Charity Commissioner; Mr. W. Johnston, Inspector of Irish Fisheries; the Marquis of Lorne, Governor-General of Canada; and Mr. O'Reilly, Irish Education Commissioner. The last-mentioned is the only appointment within the present year, and on Mr. O'Reilly vacating his seat for Longford, it was filled by Mr. Justin McCarthy, without opposition.

In the elections which have taken place during the existence of the present Parliament the balance of advantage, in a party sense, has been with the Liberals. In the first year, while the Liberals did not wrest a single seat from their opponents, they lost four—Oxford city, North Durham, Boston (on petition), and Northampton (through divisions). But in 1875, leaving out of account the city of Norwich, where the writ is now suspended, the Liberals gained Breconshire and Horsham, a Conservative gain being made in Tipperary, where, in a contest with John Mitchel, who was ineligible for election, Mr. Stephen Moore, the Ministerial candidate, received 746 votes out of a constituency of more than 9,000. It should be added that in December of that year the Conservatives gained a seat in East Aberdeenshire, through the election of Sir Alexander Gordon, who has since, however, joined the Liberal party. In 1876 the Conservatives gained a seat in Cork city through a multiplicity of Nationalist and Home Rule candidates, the Liberals winning seats in Leominster, Manchester, East Cumberland, Leitrim, the Carmarthen Boroughs, and Frome. In 1877 the Conservative gain was a seat at Wilton, while the Liberals won Oldham and Great Grimsby. In 1878 there was no net result, for while the Liberals wrested seats from their antagonists in Tamworth, Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Maldon, Conservatives replaced Liberals in Worcester and the County Down, a Ministerialist taking the place of a Home Ruler at New Ross. This year the Conservatives have won nothing, while the Liberals have gained a seat at Glasgow without opposition.

The changes in the Government this year have been confined exclusively to the offices of the Royal Household. In February Lord Henry Somerset resigned the Controllorship, which was taken by the Earl of Yarmouth, and three months later the Marquis of Hertford retired from the post of Lord Chamberlain, which is now filled by the Earl of Mount Edgumbe.—*Daily News*.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

LEICESTER.—Sir Bache Cunard, a partner in the great steamship firm, and Mr. J. H. B. Warner, who unsuccessfully contested the borough in the Conservative interest at the last election, have been invited by the Conservatives to oppose the sitting members, Messrs. P. A. Taylor and A. M. Arthur, at the general election. Their replies have not yet been received.

KIDDERMINSTER.—The incredible report is current that Mr. Albert Grant will once more contest this borough, which he formerly represented. Surely it must be a joke!

WEST SOMERSET.—Colonel the Hon. A. W. A. N. Hood, M.P., having announced his intention not to seek re-election for the Western Division of Somerset, Mr. C. P. D. Acland, son of Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, M.P., has issued an address announcing his intention to contest the seat in the Liberal interest. He says that during forty years the Liberals of West Somerset have had no voice in the legislation of the country, and thirty years have elapsed since any effort has been made to obtain one of the seats in the division for the Liberal party. The present Government inherited from their Liberal predecessors a considerable surplus, together with diminished taxation. But, like every Conservative Administration of recent years, they have created for the country increased burthens, which cannot be discharged without causing, sooner or later, an addition to the public taxes. Embarrassed by the results of a policy which, in his opinion, has led to needless and unjust wars, they had failed to accomplish objects which in the public interest had long been recognised as demanding immediate and earnest attention. Among these are—the better administration of local affairs and the more equitable distribution of local charges; the removal of all hindrances to the prosperity of the agricultural interests; the removal of such disabilities as still affect the members of voluntary religious bodies; improved efficiency and economy in the various branches of the public service. In the application of Liberal principles to these and other important objects, he is prepared to give general support to the acknowledged leaders of the Liberal party.

HEREFORDSHIRE.—In the event of being defeated for Leominster at the next general election, Mr. Thomas Blake, M.P., intends contesting Herefordshire as colleague of Mr. Biddulph.

RADNOR BOROUGH.—The Rev. Sir Gilbert Frankland Lewis, Bart. (brother of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the last Palmerston Administration), has been appointed chairman of a committee of the electors to secure the return of the Marquis of Hartington at the next election for the Radnor Boroughs. From the return received from a committee selected for the purpose of ascertaining the feeling of the constituency in favour of the Leader of the Opposition, it seems that his lord-

ship, should he be opposed, will be returned by three-fourths of the electors.

COUNTY WEXFORD.—Mr. Thomas Quinn, of Youghal and London, has, it is announced, consented to become a Home Rule candidate for the county of Wexford, in the room of Sir George Bowyer, who, it is said, is not to be brought forward for re-election.

THE SULTAN AND TURKISH OFFICIALS.

A letter from Constantinople in the *Cologne Gazette* draws a melancholy picture of the present state of affairs in Turkey. The Sultan, says the correspondent, is one of the best and noblest Sovereigns who have ever sat on the Turkish throne; he is thoroughly impressed with the responsibility of his position, and is a man of high principle, uncorrupted by the vices of the seraglio. In quieter times he would have become the idol of his people, but he has proved incapable of dealing with the difficulties of his situation. The crushing defeat of his country in the late war, the fear of conspiracies and insurrections, and the endless intrigues of the palace, disturbed his brain; and he is known to be suffering from a sort of maniacal dread of assassination. He never sleeps for two nights in succession in the same bed; all his food and drink, and even his tobacco, has to be tasted in his presence before he will touch it; and he constantly suspects his Ministers and other persons of his entourage of conspiring against him. He leaves his palace only on Friday mornings, to attend the service in an adjoining mosque, and his carriage is always surrounded by a numerous escort of Circassian guards. The only persons whom he seems to trust are a few high functionaries of the palace, most of whom unscrupulously plunder the State Treasury, and are always open to a bribe. These men really enjoy more power than the Council of State and the Ministers themselves. Only the other day (says the correspondent) a contractor who had applied for a concession which the Grand Vizier and his Ministers rightly refused to grant, as being incompatible with the interests of the country, obtained it from the Sultan by the simple process of making a present of 45,000*l.* to the chief eunuch. Nor is it only in such matters that they nullify the action of the Ministry; in the highest questions of State policy they induce the Sultan, who with all his good qualities is very ignorant, to adopt their fanatical Mahomedan views in preference to those of his official counsellors. It is scarcely credible, and yet true, that in the immediate entourage of the Sultan such notions still prevail as those of a holy war, of the extension of Islam, and of the punishment of "infidel Europe." The Sultan listens readily to suggestions in this sense; and it is to the impressions thus produced that is to be ascribed his reluctance to sign the convention relating to Novi-Bazar and to enter into negotiations for the settlement of the Greek question. In the Government offices things are as bad as in the palace. The officials are as a rule corrupt, unprincipled, idle, and inefficient. In the lower ranks both of the civil and the military service the greatest misery prevails. There are colonels and military surgeons in whose houses no meat has been eaten for months, and whose children cannot go to school because they have no shoes. Even in the largest hospitals of Constantinople all kinds of necessary medicines are wanting, and cannot be obtained because there are no funds available. In the provinces matters are far worse than in the capital; the troops go about in rags and sell their swords and rifles to buy food. As for the people, they are growing more and more indignant at the malpractices of those in office; and they talk openly in the coffee-houses of Stamboul and Scutari—those old headquarters of conspiracy—of deposing the Sultan, who is made responsible for all the sufferings of the country.

HOLIDAY RESORTS.

The daily papers are already beginning to break out in holiday sketches of Continental places and favourite resorts at home. We give one or two extracts which may interest.

HOMBURG.—A correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing from this popular German watering-place, says:—"It was thought that with the gambling the palmy days of Homburg were over. But while the healing waters rise and fall, and while English people eat and dress and dance too much, Homburg need fear nothing. The beauty which it owes to the days of *rouge et noir* remains, and patients who take their fifteen minutes of steady exercise between each glass of water may wander among groves of orange blossoms and wild cherry, with rose-wreathed brooks gurgling over pebbled beds, and tame birds fluttering among the bushes, without a thought of the ruin and dismay which have looked these pretty things face to face. In the main alley, which is so thickly studded with young trees that the beautiful blue sky is diapered with delicious shadows, are to be seen tall English colonels and blooming English girls—English ladies of uncertain age in dashing dresses, men fresh from their colleges, parsons, fashionable doctors, a crowd maimed by the London season. The few Germans there are begin their draught at five, and take their walks in solitary back alleys among their own kind. The language of the place is English, the hats and dresses are English, and the English sovereign will take you anywhere and buy you anything, at famine prices. Even the

English Sunday is domiciled here. There is a likeness which is quite sisterly between England and Germany after the wet summer. Fields which are wont to be brown in August are green; trees that are usually turned to a delicate toast colour by the sun are green; the vines, which one expects to see singed with exposure and grey with dust, are as green as hops in Kent. There will be no grapes, or only bad grapes, in this part of Germany, which includes, it may be remembered, the region of the Moselle and the famous Johannisberg. The cold winds and the wet of July rotted the tender grape flower on its stalk, and swept away all promise of vintage. But even in less green and growing weather Homburg is the greenest of little towns. The alleys of this earthly paradise were all laid out to the tune of *rouge et noir* in the piping times of play. The very orange trees that stand sentry over the walks where patients take their exercise were gambled away by a duke; all the houses in one street were lost at play by a cripple, who was carried every morning to the Kurhaus, and carried home every evening. There are tales of counts out at elbows revisiting these scenes nowadays, as ghosts are said to revisit scenes of murder. Suicide was common enough under these leafy arcades; and the story goes that the authorities of the place, fearing the discredit of causing so many deaths, ordered their agents to place money in the pockets of the corpses before giving information to the police. Accordingly at the very next crack of a pistol a zealous messenger from the Banque hurried out of the gambling rooms, and thrust a thousand-franc note into the pocket of the body, who thereupon got up and ran away."

LIFE AT A FRENCH WATERING-PLACE.—The *Globe*, in describing the life at Villers, a noted French watering-place, says:—"There are two beaches—one in front of the new casino, and the other at the Deauville end of the town. The former is abandoned for the use of the visitors, who form little circles of their own, sitting talking on the sands when the tide is out, or bathing under the surveillance of a guide at high water. The *petite plage* is monopolised by the inhabitants of the villas, and is almost as exclusive as Almack's in days gone by. At the present moment the hour for bathing is fixed about four o'clock, but the lateness of the tide does not prevent those who are staying at Deauville from taking the full meed of sea air. Early in the morning an appetite for the eleven o'clock breakfast is gained by fishing. Ladies and gentlemen disguise themselves as shrimpers, and, armed with long nets, go out into the sea up to their necks in water, looking for small fish, juvenile soles, succulent red baby crabs, and shrimps. The costumes chosen are simply marvellous. There are the *élégants* who will not consent to lose any of the advantages the tailor's art can confer on them. A morning suit, fashionably cut, is sacrificed, gloves are worn to prevent the hands from the sea water, and the dandy fisherman has simply sacrificed himself for the sake of doing as others do, never wetting his clothes beyond the knee, and, of course, tottering in vain. Opposed to him is the devotee who, clad in the rough garb of a sailor, or in boating costume, labours energetically, and piques himself on the produce of his morning's work. He groans and toils, pushing along a heavy two-handed net, which has to be brought to land and emptied every now and then to clear it of shells, the ugly demon-like octopus, sleepy and gorged with the shrimps he has devoured, and of crabs which stand erect and show fight when they are out of their element. Ladies think nothing of going into the water in their morning costumes of *piquet*, or in long woollen bright-coloured robes, while a few have handsome dresses, resembling those worn by French fisherwomen, with short skirts and woollen stockings, made for the occasion. One detail is forgotten, for none of the ladies are sufficiently strong-minded to venture into the water without rings, bracelets, and jewellery. The amateur shrimper can always be discerned, either owing to her love of trinkets or by her expensive sun hat, ornamented with flowers in profusion."

KESWICK AND DERWENTWATER.—Thus writes a correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*:—"Shall I tell you what impression this pretty town [Keswick] at the head of Lakeland made upon me at first sight? It was that I had somewhere seen pictures of the heavenly region as it occurred to the fancy of artists whose notions of Paradise were Beauty and Rest, and that the surroundings of Keswick were very like them. The town itself I, of course, give up, which can be done the more readily because it is unobtrusive. But the Derwentwater, its fairy islands, wooded shores, and encircling mountains—there was the Paradise of the painters. I came upon the scene at a fortunate moment, and had the heavenly vision in perfection. The lake lay in profound repose, save where the water was ruffled by the dip of a few lazy oars; the trees hardly stirred to the pulsations of an atmosphere quivering with heat; around the mountains hung a haze that, like a veil of gauze, half concealed their features, though it could not hide their forms; while on all rested a profound quiet which it seemed like sacrilege to disturb with clatter of hoofs and roll of wheels. Derwentwater is not always thus. A few hours later, for example, it reflected sheets of fire from a surface lashed by furious winds, while the mountains took up the thunderclaps and flung them from one to another in demoniacal glee. But as I first saw it the lake and its glorious framework might have stood to another Martin for another—and a better—representation of the land where 'the weary are at rest.'

Now and then a tourist of the knapsack order tramps through the district, 'larding the lean earth' as he goes; or a bicyclist rattles along; or a party of Americans hurry past, looking straight ahead for an ever-receding goal; but the general rule is to take things as easily as possible, and, above all, never to walk when it is practicable to ride. Do I condemn the rule, or its observers? Hardly the latter, since they may only be conforming as well as they can to the dictum of Professor Wilson, who knew, if ever man did, what was becoming to the Lake region. A pedestrian hereabout is, according to the Professor, 'a great ass.' I am strongly of opinion that the Derwentwater visitors are resolved to escape both the odium of pedestrianism and the stigma properly attaching to a 'metropolitan nunny.' Hence their practice of locomotion on wheels or the four legs of a pony, and their indifference to the late Mr. Wordsworth, to say nothing of Mr. Southey, whose tomb here in Keswick is principally gazed at by Americans. Round and round they go, in wagonettes from the hotels, through Borrowdale, over the Borrowdale Hows, under Honister Crag to Buttermere—luncheon always ready—and then back by the Vale of Newlands, to complete the circle, sitting face to face the whole time, as though proclaiming their freedom from any vulgar Cockney desire to 'look upon a mountain.' These people, however, are mostly the common birds of passage. Others there are not given to miscellaneous wagonnetting—families who descend upon Keswick as a change from the seaside, and crowd the lodging-houses of the little town. Such are your true votaries of the *dolce far niente*—the genius of the place. But all this time some of my young readers, acquainted with Southey, have been longing to know whether the water still 'comes down at Lodore' in the exceedingly varied manner set forth by the poet. I had these juvenile friends in view when, on a recent evening, I made my way to the fall—through the garden of an hotel. It is even so, young folk, and you may spare your indignation. A big 'public' stands with its back to the cascade, and, so to speak, makes a show of it, since the only way—a gate opening to a meadow adjoining being thorned up—lies through the grounds of the establishment. True, the case of Lodore is not quite so bad as that of a certain fall in Devonshire, where a jolly miller above turns on the water for a consideration; but it is quite bad enough, in the sense of being opposed to all one's notions of the laws which should guard a place so consecrated by nature and art. Nevertheless, the water continues to come down at Lodore—all that is no: carried off in pipes to serve the hotel—much as it did when Southey wrote; and, if you like, you can follow its course, poem in hand, to find the exact appearance which suggested each of its many participles. The fall itself, I am bound to say, is no great thing, though fine enough to be impressive when storm waters are coming down. In point of beauty the Swallow Falls at Bettws-y-Coed are far ahead of Lodore, and all that they want to transcend it completely is a poet who shall do for that most delicious of Nature's cabinet pictures what has been done for the companion piece here."

CIVIL MARRIAGES.

(From the *Manchester Examiner*.)

Mr. Blennerhassett has given notice of his intention to introduce next session a bill to render the marriage laws of England and Ireland more simple and uniform. He proposes to exempt a clergyman from punishment who shall conduct the marriage of a divorced person, and he desires to extend the area within which people may be married after banns have been published in the churches of the ecclesiastical district. One of his most important clauses, however, will be that which would make it lawful for Nonconformist ministers and Roman Catholics priests, under proper restrictions, to solemnise marriages in buildings registered for marriage without the presence of the registrar. At present, as most people know who have had to assist at marriages in Nonconformist churches, the ceremony cannot take place unless the registrar is present. He causes considerable inconvenience sometimes by keeping the wedding party waiting, but that is a minor grievance as compared with the fact that his presence is required by the law to make valid a marriage solemnised by a Nonconformist or Roman Catholic clergyman. Mr. Blennerhassett will bring his bill forward next session, supposing, that is, that the Parliament which was prorogued on Aug. 15, sees another session; and meanwhile some interesting information on a cognate subject is supplied in a return of the Registrar-General. Major Graham presents us with a few figures with regard to the increase in the number of civil marriages during the forty-two years during which the law has provided for marriage by civil contract. Since 1841, he points out, 850,000 persons have been married in register offices, and out of that number nearly half a million have been married during the last thirteen years. It used to be the fashion to marry in the Church of England, where every minister is a registrar for himself; but that fashion is gradually going out of date, as is evident from an analysis of the Registrar-General's statement. It appears from his statistics that during the first twenty-four years of the period of thirty-seven included in his calculation, the marriages at the register offices numbered 13,000 per year. But during the thirteen years succeeding, the number increased to about 39,000 per year, which is a remarkable proof of the rapid growth in popularity of

marriage by civil contract. The Registrar-General says that he has heard with regret marriages in register offices called improper, or described as "only suited to infidels," and this leads him to say that by the civil contract there is greater security offered to society than is provided by the rites of the Church. When the banns of 202 persons are published all at once on a favourite day, as has occurred at the Manchester Cathedral, or the notices have been read in the case of 125 people, as at St. Mary's, Lambeth, on one Sunday, it is obvious that no searching inquiry can have been made in regard to the parties. Whether they have been married before or are qualified for marriage at the time, must necessarily be a matter of which the officiating clergyman knows nothing. But in the register offices it is very different. As the Registrar-General points out, the registration officer requires a solemn declaration on all particulars, the slightest falsehood in which subjects the offender to the pains and penalties of perjury, and the notice, instead of being inaccessible like the banns-book, is open to the public inspection for three weeks. Major Graham has shown very clearly that marriage by civil contract is not only gaining public favour, but that it is the most secure method of guarding against the evils which the marriage laws were intended to prevent.

THE AFGHAN MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

On Friday Mr. Kynnersley, stipendiary magistrate at Birmingham, refused to accede to an application to dismiss the three unheard summonses against the mayor and others for an assault, arising out of a disturbance at a political meeting over which the mayor presided. The mayor and Mr. Wright, who had been convicted on one summons, declined to appeal upon the case granted by the magistrate. During the proceedings a warm discussion took place between the magistrate and the town clerk, Mr. E. J. Hayes. The town clerk objected strongly to some remarks made by the magistrate in the absence of the mayor. Mr. Kynnersley: I think everyone will admit I have treated the mayor with the greatest courtesy. The Town Clerk: I think not; because, after the mayor had sworn that he apprehended a breach of the peace and murder, you have said in your statement that you did not believe him. Mr. Kynnersley: That is ridiculous. The Town Clerk: It is not ridiculous. Mr. Kynnersley: Does anyone believe he was serious? The Town Clerk: He swore it. I again formally apply that these summonses should be dismissed. Mr. Kynnersley: I refuse to dismiss them. I have no grounds to do so. The Town Clerk: What is your duty? The order of the Vice-Chancellor is that the proceedings now pending before the stipendiary magistrate are to be determined before the Chancery proceedings go on. Now, I do not know how you can have determined the summonses. Mr. Kynnersley: They are withdrawn. The Town Clerk: I have not heard the application. I have only heard a statement by Mr. Rowlands. Mr. Kynnersley: He applied for leave to withdraw them. Mr. Rowlands: Certainly. The Town Clerk: That is exactly what he did not do. All he said he came here to do was to make a statement, and having made it, he says: "I have offered no evidence in support of these summonses." Mr. Kynnersley: He is entitled to have them withdrawn. The Town Clerk: I ask that they be dismissed. The mayor being the defendant in two of the cases, I cannot too strongly protest against the course you take. Mr. Kynnersley: If you are not satisfied, let the cases proceed. Let Mr. Rowlands, instead of proceeding here, proceed by way of indictment against the mayor. The Town Clerk: That is your suggestion, is it? I am very sorry to have heard it fall from you. Mr. Kynnersley: I shall be very happy to commit the mayor and the other defendants to the assizes. The Town Clerk: You have expressed for the second time the pleasure it would give you to commit the mayor of this borough to the assizes, although you have not heard the evidence. ("No, no!") Mr. Kynnersley: I proposed, in the first instance, to hear the depositions and then let the case be sent to the assizes. I was dissuaded from that on the suggestion that it would be unbecoming to commit the mayor, but Mr. Rowlands may proceed by way of indictment if he pleases. The Town Clerk: I do not think this is the time or the occasion for you to advise Mr. Rowlands as to the course he should adopt against the mayor. Mr. Kynnersley: Well, then, the summonses are withdrawn if you do not go on. The business of the court was then proceeded with, and the parties retired.

THE COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE.

The Royal Commission on Agriculture was gazetted on Friday. The commissioners are the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the Duke of Buccleuch, Earl Spencer, Lord Vernon, Mr. George Joachim Goschen, M.P., Sir William Henry Stephenson, Colonel Kingscote, M.P., Mr. Henry Chaplin, M.P., Mr. John Clay, Mr. Joseph Cowen, M.P., Mr. Mitchell Henry, M.P., Mr. Charles Howard, Mr. James Lennox Napier, Mr. Robert Paterson, Mr. Bonamy Price, Mr. John Rice, Mr. Charles Thomson Ritchie, M.P., Mr. Benjamin Bridges Hunter Rodwell, M.P., Mr. William Stratton, and Mr. Jacob Wilson. They are directed to inquire into the depressed condition of the agricultural interest, and the causes to which it is owing; whether those causes are of a permanent character, and how far they have been created or

can be remedied by legislation. Mr. William Augustus Peel is to be secretary to the commission. On Friday the members of the commission had a sitting of several hours' duration to decide upon their plan of operation during the autumn. Their next meeting will be held in November. The commission will be permanently located in London, but it is not improbable that they will visit Edinburgh and Dublin. The work of the assistant commissioners will be mainly directed to gathering information in foreign countries, and the assistant commissioners, Mr. Pell, M.P., and Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., who are going to America, will start almost immediately in order to take cognisance of the present harvest. It is probable that these commissioners will have returned by the time the central commissioners resume their sittings for the winter. Belgium, Holland, France, and Germany will also be visited by assistant commissioners. The fact of the commissioners numbering twenty, and that five are, in accordance with the instructions, to form a quorum will enable them to sit in four sections in different parts of the United Kingdom should such an arrangement be deemed necessary. The addition of Mr. J. L. Napier, an Irish landlord, to the commission, gives three representatives to Ireland.

On Friday evening the Earl of Suffolk, who presided at the annual ploughing-match dinner of the Kingscote Agricultural Association, in proposing "Success to the Association," said that while many were in favour of a return to Protection he did not believe it was necessary, and that the very last article to be protected was the breadstuffs. Colonel Kingscote, M.P., in responding to the toast, said they must not expect too much from the royal commission. It would not be a panacea for all their evils, but he believed a good deal of valuable information would be collected by it. They must not expect that one result of the commission would be a return to protection. The great value of the commission would be to inquire as to the burdens on land and where they pressed most heavily. Of late years rates and taxes had fallen on land much more heavily than they ought, and they should be readjusted on an equitable basis. He hoped they would not put their trust in protective duties—at all events, upon breadstuffs; and he believed the people of England would never again allow wheat to be taxed.

Epitome of News.

The Queen and Court remain at Osborne, and are expected to leave for Balmoral on Tuesday next. The Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh have been on a visit to the Queen, and the Princess and children returned to London on Saturday evening. On Monday the Prince and the Duke left Cowes in the royal yacht Osborne, and arrived in Plymouth Sound in the evening. Yesterday Rear-Admiral the Duke of Edinburgh went through the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new Eddystone Lighthouse. The sea was comparatively smooth, and there was a large number of Government and pleasure steamers in attendance, which, as there was a drizzling rain, all returned to Plymouth directly the ceremony was over.

The Princess of Wales, with her sons and daughters, left England last evening, *via* Dover and Calais, on a visit to the King and Queen of Denmark, at their chateau near Copenhagen.

It is stated that Claremont has been allotted by the Queen to Prince Leopold for a country house, but he will not take up his abode there for some time to come.

Prince Albert Victor will, it is announced, enter the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich next term as a Queen's cadet. His brother, Prince George, will probably be educated for the navy at the Royal College, Greenwich, and both princes will reside at the Ranger's House, Greenwich Park.

Lord Beaconsfield has gone to Hughenden Manor; the Lord Chancellor to Perthshire; Lord Salisbury to Dieppe; Sir Stafford Northcote to the Continent; Mr. Cross to his seat in Lancashire; Mr. W. H. Smith to his mansion near Henley-on-Thames; Sir M. Hicks-Beach, the Colonial Secretary, remains in town.

The annual whitebait dinner of Ministers took place at Greenwich on Wednesday. Most of the members of the Government were present, though the Prime Minister did not attend. It does not seem to have been a very festive gathering—at least, the company which sat down at eight o'clock went on board the return steamer at nine. Was there any fear of a collision?

Prince Gondoswoyo, from Java, and his son, Radhen Mas Soenaryo, have arrived in London and taken up their residence at the Westminster Palace Hotel. They are the first Javanese princes who have visited this country.

It is stated by the *Gaulois* that the Empress Eugenie "is still in the same state of depression. She receives nobody, and dines alone in her own apartment. She only leaves her room to go into that of her son. On the first day she entered it since his burial she nearly fainted on beholding the fatal saddle which cost the Prince Imperial his life. The Empress supports herself with the consolation of religion. When she is not praying she gets her companion to read pious works to her, such as those of St. Augustin and Massillon. Her Majesty is still obliged to take chloral to obtain sleep. Her friends have tried in vain to induce her to change her residence and go to Spain; she insists on remaining at Chislehurst for the time."

There are seventy-six notices of motion for next session on the order-book of the House of Commons, and they fill more than eight pages of the votes.

The number of statutes passed in the recent session was:—Public, 78; local, 225; private, 8. In the previous session there were 79 public, 238 local, and 7 private.

The *New York Herald* suggests that General Grant should be appointed to succeed Mr. Welsh as Minister of the United States in this country. The *Herald* thinks the appointment would be in every way "fit, proper, and excellent." It is thought not unlikely that, in view of the coming fishery negotiations Mr. Evarts, Secretary of State, will accept the appointment.

Rain fell in London all day on Sunday and throughout the night, until about eight o'clock on Monday. The storm appears to have been very general, and in some parts of the country much damage has been done. The low-lying parts of Liverpool and Birkenhead were flooded by the incessant rain. Around Chester and Derby fields and roads are under water, and great injury has been done to the crops. At Sheffield the foundations of five houses in course of erection were washed away, and traffic on some of the tram lines was stopped. The floods were very heavy in the Forest of Dean, and the lowlands are inundated. Railway traffic between Bangor and Chester was stopped. The Irish mail due at Holyhead at 2 p.m. on Sunday had to return to Chester after reaching Holywell, owing to the line being flooded. It was despatched again along the branch line running through Denbigh, and joined the main line at Rhyl. At Caerwys it was compelled to stop, the bridge having been washed away. Portions of both the up and down lines on the Holyhead railway and many bridges were washed away, owing to the overflow of the River Dee. The mail steamer only left Holyhead at 10 a.m. on Monday. At Barnsley, on Sunday, there were three thunder and hail storms in succession. Many streets and houses were deluged, and many large sewers burst. The Beavor Brewery was submerged and the gas retorts extinguished.

Two fatal bathing accidents have occurred at Southsea. On Saturday morning a boy named Cannaway was drowned while bathing on the beach. On the previous day the body of a man unknown was picked up near the same spot. His clothes were found upon the shore.

A singular accident is reported from Dundee. About midnight on Saturday a man named Scott engaged a cab. The cabman, taking a street leading to the harbour, drove into one of the docks. The cabman was saved by a lifehook, but Scott was drowned. The cabman has been taken into custody. He says that his horse shied and became unmanageable.

A fire broke out on Saturday night at the sugar refinery of Messrs. D. Martineau and Son, Commercial-road East, and continued to burn throughout the whole of Sunday. The loss is estimated at upwards of 100,000.

Sir George Campbell, the indefatigable member for the Kirkcaldy Burghs, proposes to start in a few weeks for a tour through Bulgaria, Eastern Roumelia, and other parts of Turkey.

The National Conference of Miners, which has been sitting in Manchester, was resumed on Friday. A number of rules for the guidance of miners who propose to emigrate were adopted after considerable discussion, and the conference appointed a general committee to manage the society, which is to bear the name of "The Miners' National Emigration Association." A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Macdonald, M.P., and Mr. Burt, M.P., for their efforts in Parliament to remedy the law of compensation. The conference recommended the introduction next session of a measure to compel colliery owners in cases of explosion to recover the bodies of the lost, and a bill for the amendment of the Mines Regulation Act was also recommended.

At the sitting of the Conference on International Law Reform on Friday, Sir Travers Twiss in the chair, papers were read on the "International Law of Affreightment," "The Operations of the Hanseatic League in England," "International Rules of Quarantine," "International Weights and Measures," and "Bankruptcy Law from an International Point of View," and the various subjects were referred to committees for consideration and report. The concluding meeting was held on Saturday at the Guildhall. Sir Travers Twiss, who presided, gave a farewell address, in which he congratulated the members on the general character of the session which was terminating. The next conference will be held in Dublin.

The owners of the Great Eastern have, it is stated, at last determined to adopt a suggestion that has been frequently made, and are about to convert the great ship into a meat-carrying trader between London and Texas. The requisite alterations, which include new boilers, will involve an expenditure of about 100,000; but as the vessel can carry 2,000 head of cattle, or 36,000 sheep, the speculation should prove remunerative.

At Swansea on Saturday, during a regatta, some boys were found to be in a boat several miles from land in a very perilous position. Eight men went to their rescue. Three of them on reaching the boat occupied by the boys entered it, and got safe to shore. The boat with the other five men in it, after being twenty hours at sea, was picked up off Porthcawl. The men were in a very exhausted condition.

Captain Carey, who was in company with Prince Louis Napoleon when he was killed by the Zulus, and is a native of Brixham, is expected at Plymouth

in the Jumna in the course of to-day. The following address has been signed by some 3,000 persons, for presentation to Captain Carey on his arrival:—"We men of Plymouth, in welcoming you back to your native country, desire to express our entire confidence in your valour as a British officer, and your honour as a gentleman, and our sincere sympathy with you in the trying circumstances in which you have been placed." As it would be contrary to the rules of the service to allow the presentation of the address, it will be sent to Captain Carey's family.

The "native view" of the British administration of Indian affairs was again brought before an English audience on Monday evening by Mr. Lal-mohun Ghose, at the Horns Assembly Rooms, Kennington. Alderman Sir J. Lawrence, M.P., presided, and Mr. Ghose's address was similar to that which he delivered a short time ago at Willis's Rooms, where Mr. Bright was in the chair.

On Monday evening Mr. Mundella, M.P., delivered his annual address in Paradise-square, Sheffield, to a very large and orderly meeting. In reviewing the work of the session he said it was the longest, weariest, and dreariest he had known. The Government brought forward a programme of fifteen measures, but only four of these had been passed. He severely criticised both the financial and foreign policy of the Government, spoke of the Conservative party as united only when they were resisting all progress, and in conclusion said whenever a dissolution came he should appeal with perfect confidence to his constituents. A vote of confidence was passed.

An alarming collision occurred shortly after nine o'clock on Wednesday evening between two steamers in Barking Reach, on the Thames, a short distance from the spot where the Princess Alice, with her hundreds of holiday-makers, was sunk. The Vesta, from Hamburg, ran into the City of London, bound for Aberdeen, with a large number of excursionists and a general cargo, the result being that the latter vessel was much damaged, but though in a sinking condition she was run safely upon the mud of the Reach. No loss of life occurred, and the passengers were taken in the Vesta to Blackwall. It was barely forty-eight hours after the collision before the City of London was rendered buoyant again, and at the following tide she was on her way to the docks. The strength of the iron deck enabled her to stand the shock. With regard to the cause of the accident, statements have been made on both sides, but independent opinions tend to the exculpation of both. The pilot of the Aberdeen boat, Mr. Spicer, and the pilot of the Vesta, Mr. Sweetenham, are spoken of as two of the most experienced and careful men on the river, and the accident was probably due, like many others, to a misunderstanding of each other's intentions.

A remarkable case of superstition has occurred in the North Devon parish of Charles. A small farmer, believing he was bewitched by a relative, journeyed to Exeter and brought home a "white witch," who is also a quack doctress. During the burning of some compound resembling incense the witch repeated an incantation; but, notwithstanding her injunction that strict silence should be observed, the farmer's wife interpolated some contemptuous observations, and the only result of the evening's *seance* was that the witch prescribed to the farmer a beef diet for a week, during which time he was to stop at home.

The Royal Agricultural Society's Council has made the agreeable discovery that the total deficit on the Kilburn show will not exceed about 8,000. This is 5,000 less than a recent estimate which has been published.

The annual meeting of the British Association commences at Sheffield to-day, and the sittings will continue until the 28th. Professor Allman, M.D., is the president-elect; and amongst the vice-presidents are the Duke of Devonshire, Earl Fitzwilliam, and the Earl of Wharfedale. There will be ten sectional meetings each day. The most elaborate arrangements are being made by the local committee for the comfort and enjoyment of visitors.

It is believed that large shipments of iron are about to be sent from the River Tees to America, and the trading prospects of the mineral industries are generally looked upon as very greatly improved in the last few days.

Mr. Gray and Mr. Parnell, at the instigation of the Archbishop of Cashel, have signed a letter declaring their recent quarrel at an end, adding that they equally desire to bring about, by the most effective means, the legislative independence of Ireland. The Very Rev. Canon Doyle, a parish priest in the county Wexford, resists this political reconciliation on the ground that a serious question is involved as between "Whiggery" and the "National cause" in Ireland. Mr. Gray, M.P., in a long and indignant letter in reply to the Rev. Mr. Doyle, says respect for the rev. gentleman's cloth and for himself prevents him from characterising his language as it deserves. The *Freeman*, he says, was never concerned in any "Whig plot" since his father or himself had anything to do with it, but will continue to say what it thinks, and so will he personally, without being influenced by attacks from any quarter.

The Home Rule Council had a stormy meeting at Dublin on Sunday, and a division of five to seven occurred upon a question of confidence, it is said, between Mr. Gray's position and Mr. Parnell's. On Friday next a public meeting of the league is to be held in Dublin.

Mr. Grissell, who was on Thursday evening committed to Newgate for evading the Speaker's warrant to appear at the bar of the House of Commons for breach of privilege, was released on Friday afternoon. Mr. Grissell has sent to the Speaker an apology which he intended to read to the House on Thursday had he been brought to the bar. He stated that he had no intention to commit any breach of the privileges of Parliament or to be guilty of any disrespect, and that in delaying to obey the Speaker's order he had been influenced solely by the state of his health.

Lord Northbrook, in addressing a meeting of Liberals at Falmouth on Friday night, criticised the foreign policy of the Government at some length. He said that the Liberal party were always of opinion that there never was a probability of England being involved in war in connection with the Eastern Question except by the action of the Government, and yet, having got us into difficulties which might have led to war, the Government took credit for getting out of the difficulty. The Afghan war, he said, was caused by the timidity of the Government through the imaginary danger of a Russian attack on India. The war had led to annexation, and it remained to be seen whether that annexation would give weakness or strength. The real safety of India would be effected by good government and taking care of its finances. Referring to the Zulu war, Lord Northbrook said that although ashamed of the origin of the war, we could not but be delighted with the gallantry of our men, and it was satisfactory that the Government had promised there should be no annexation of Zulu territory.

At the Guildhall Police-court on Monday the publisher of the *Standard* newspaper appeared to answer the complaint of Lord De L'Isle in reference to a statement published in that journal alleging that his lordship had pleaded the privilege of a peer by refusing to appear before the judge of the Brompton County Court on a judgment debtor summons for the sum of 24. 8s. On behalf of the defendant regret was expressed that the mistake had been made of connecting his lordship's name with the paragraph, and an ample apology was offered. The case was adjourned for a fortnight to see what further steps his lordship would take in the matter.

The *Mark-lane Express* says the past week's sunshine has done wonders in maturing the cereal crops. At the same time, the actual damage wrought by the past unkindly season cannot be obliterated as far as the yield of wheat is concerned, although growers may derive some benefit in improved quality. An examination of ears proves that the plant has been starved, and its grain-producing qualities reduced to a minimum during the earlier phases of its existence. Barley, in some parts of the southern counties, promises by no means badly. Neither wheat nor barley will be ready to cut before the end of the month.

Fields of barley have been cut in the neighbourhood of Camborne, and fields of wheat near Hayle, and throughout the whole of the south-western counties the growing crops are turning colour and ripening under the genial influence of warm air and a fair amount of sunshine. Many farmers have adopted a plan which has been extensively and successfully tried in the United States, of cutting the wheat before quite ripe.

The statistics of crime for Ireland in 1878, which have just been issued, show an increase of 631 in the number of indictable offences not disposed of summarily, which is attributed to the existence of distress. In offences disposed of summarily there is an increase of 2,261 cases. The beneficial effect of the Sunday Closing Act, which only came into operation in October, is shown in the reduction of 3,180, or about 3 per cent., in the number of "punishable cases of drunkenness." More than one half of the entire of the serious crimes perpetrated in Ireland last year were committed in Dublin, though that city has only one sixteenth of the population.

On Saturday afternoon the captive balloon, which was at the time confined to its moorings in the Tuileries, and not permitted to ascend, in consequence of the stormy state of the weather, burst with a loud detonation. The loss to the proprietor is estimated at 5,000. The destruction of the balloon is explained by the aeronauts, MM. Godard and Darbois, as resulting from the sudden condensation of the hydrogen occasioned by the low temperature following the great heat, and coincident with a gale of wind which struck the balloon when imperfectly filled, and produced fissures in which it roared and played with fury.

Early on Friday morning a collision occurred between a passenger and a goods train on the Western Railway of France, between the stations of Flers and Monsecrét. The trains met full tilt, nine persons were killed, and the number of the wounded is estimated at thirty-two, fourteen of whom are not expected to survive.

M. Pelletan, in the name of the Fourth Senatorial Committee appointed to examine the petitions presented for and against the Ferry Bill, has drawn up a report in which he sets forth the conclusion that the petitions have not been spontaneous on the part of the population, but the result of an agitation concerted and organised in Paris, and afterwards developed all over France; many of the signatures being forged.

The French Government have advanced the object aimed at by M. Ferry's bill by issuing a decree ordering that every candidate for certain Government offices shall produce a diploma or

certificate of studies granted by the State faculties. It is expected that most of the general councils, now about to assemble throughout France, will discuss the Ferry Bill, and pronounce an opinion thereon.

It seems that Bonapartism is greatly on the decline in the French departments. Three Imperialist newspapers have just stopped publication for want of funds.

Owing to the small amount of support which the project of M. de Lesseps for the cutting of an inter-oceanic canal across the Isthmus of Panama has met with, the issue of 800,000 shares is for the present suspended, and the subscriptions which have been paid will be returned in full. Meanwhile the contractor has determined to proceed at his own cost to the spot, and survey the ground anew. M. de Lesseps has resolved to go himself to the United States in order to deal with the alleged hostility of the Government to his scheme. The company will not be definitely established until his return.

All the towns of Belgium are preparing for next year's fêtes in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Belgian independence.

There was a flow of two streams of lava from Mount Vesuvius to the base of the cone on Friday. No irruption, however, took place on Saturday.

The Italian papers state that Garibaldi is somewhat seriously indisposed at Civita Vecchia; he cannot eat on account of the recurrence of arthritic pains.

King Alfonso and the Archduchess Marie Christine will, it is expected, meet at Bordeaux or Arcachon, on which occasion His Majesty will stay for a few days on French territory.

Mr. Mosely, jun., M.D., of Boston, United States, was killed by a fall while descending the Matterhorn on Thursday.

It would seem that with the progress of harvest operations in Germany it becomes more and more apparent that the crops in general will yield a very favourable result.

It is stated that the German Government intend to propose a tax on newspaper advertisements.

It is stated that the German Emperor has pardoned Rear-Admiral Batsch, who was lately sentenced by court-martial to six months' imprisonment for neglect of duty in connection with the sinking of the *Grosser Kurfürst*, after only fourteen days' imprisonment at Magdeburg. Rear-Admiral Batsch has also, it is said, been selected to succeed Vice-Admiral Henk as Director of the Admiralty. The third court-martial for the trial of Captain Count Monte for conduct contributory to the disaster meets to-day.

The German Ultramontane leaders have issued their address to electors, in view of the forthcoming elections to the Prussian Landtag. The correspondent of the *Standard* says that the document, while plainly showing that the ecclesiastical differences are not yet accommodated, indicates a complete change of front as to the attainment of that object. No more is said of Diocletian persecutions and of the intended extermination of Catholicism by the Government; and the points urged are simply the right of the Church to independence and the necessity of relieving her from the pressure imposed upon her. It may be also gathered from the manifesto that the new tariff, which was only accomplished with the aid of the Ultramontanes, is by no means approved by the entire Catholic community.

The asperity which has of late prevailed between the semi-official Press of Germany on the one hand, and of Russia on the other, has not yet been allayed. The Russian journals are particularly bitter, accusing the German Government of having isolated Russia.

A telegram from Berlin says:—"The terror in Russia continues unabated. According to trustworthy sources, twenty persons, including several officers, were arrested recently in St. Petersburg on charges connected with Nihilism. In Odessa twenty-eight Nihilists are on trial. Several hundred suspected persons have just been expelled from Kiev, and General Ignatieff has ordered a still greater number to leave Nijni Novgorod."

The *Golos* reports an extensive seizure of powder and explosive material on Friday night, at a small shop in St. Petersburg, which has been occupied by a new tenant during the past year. The police had been informed that a large quantity of powder was secreted in the warehouse or cellar attached to the shop. They watched, and on Friday night four carts arrived. They were examined, and found to contain boxes filled with powder and explosive grenades. The shop, also, was searched, and about 100 lbs. of powder and other explosive materials were discovered. The proprietor has been arrested, and the shop closed and sealed up by the authorities.

In a despatch to the Great Powers, the Porte communicates the appointment of Safvet Pasha, Sawas Pasha, and Ali Saib Pasha as Turkish Commissioners for the rectification of the Greek frontier. The negotiations will be opened immediately, and it is expected that a compromise will shortly be arrived at. In Government circles it is believed Safvet Pasha is disposed to cede to Greece Thessaly as far as the River Salambria, including the town of Tricala, and Epirus as far as Konispolis, but not Janina.

Count Andrassy, it is stated, still adheres to his resignation. He is expected in Vienna to-day, when he will submit to the Emperor the name of a statesman as his successor. The change of chancellor will, it is asserted, involve no alteration in the Imperial policy.

Messrs. James Calvert, Horace Guarracino, and Stoney, have been named to the Porte by Sir A. H. Layard as European inspectors of the Turkish finances in Asia.

The firman of investiture of the Khedive was presented and read on Friday at the citadel of Cairo with great pomp in the presence of the Khedive, the Princes, the Diplomatic Corps, the Ministry, the religious bodies, and functionaries. It is stated that the army and the people in masses greeted Tewfik Paasha as Khedive with great enthusiasm. The ceremony concluded with a benediction, pronounced by an imam, after which the Khedive held a general reception of some 3,000 persons. The town was generally illuminated at night, and on Saturday evening there was a torchlight procession of the troops.

The Egyptian Ministry having resigned, a new Cabinet has been formed, in which the Khedive holds the position of President of the Council.

General Kaufmann has congratulated Yakoub Khan on his accession, and has forwarded to the Ameer certain communications, which have been shown to Major Cavagnari, "in accordance with treaty engagements." A Calcutta telegram to the *Times* states that the Ameer consulted Major Cavagnari as to the answer he should return, and in accordance with the advice given the Ameer suggests that all future communications from the Russian general should be sent through the Indian Government. The same authority states that the city of Candahar has been made over to Sirdar Sher Ali Khan, the governor appointed by the Ameer, and that the first step taken by him was to impose certain taxes which had been remitted by us.

Deplorable news comes from Cashmere. The drought continues, the Indian corn crops are being parched up, and timely rain will only secure a rice crop equal to half the average. It is believed by the *Times* correspondent that half of the inhabitants of the valley have already perished or emigrated.

Telegrams from Utah report that a bitter feeling among the Mormons against the Government has been caused by the polygamy prosecutions, also by the impending anti-Mormon circular to European Governments. The Mormons, however, say that they do not believe foreign Governments can be induced to join in an anti-Mormon crusade, and nothing is heard of any intended forcible resistance to the Government.

Intelligence has been received at New York of the arrival of the Polar exploring vessel *Jeannette*, at Onalask, on the 2nd inst. According to the report of the captain of the United States revenue vessel *Richard Rush*, that vessel passed through Behring's Straits, within seventy-five miles of East Cape, when the sea to the northward of that point was clear of ice. Last winter had, he states, been unusually warm, and the ice broke up earlier than ordinarily.

Two persons were killed and twenty-six wounded in the riot which took place on Friday between the French and Irish ship labourers at Quebec. At the despatch of the latest intelligence the military were being kept under arms.

Miscellaneous.

Canon Farrar's new work, "The Life and Work of St. Paul," is now in a forward state of preparation, and will be published at the end of the month by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin, and Co. Mr. Mudie has subscribed for 1,000 copies.

THE NEW IRISH UNIVERSITY.—A correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"It was proposed by the Government that the name of the new Irish University should be 'the University of Ireland,' but objection was taken to this by the friends of Trinity College, Dublin, on the ground that it too nearly resembled the title of 'the University of Dublin.' It is understood that the new institution will be called the Royal University of Ireland."

FEMALE MEDICAL STUDENTS.—In the list of candidates who have just passed the preliminary and scientific M.B. examination at the University of London there appear the names of four ladies, all of whom have been placed in the first division, viz.:—Frances Helen Prideaux and Edith Shove, of the London School of Medicine for Women; Mary Ann Dacomb Scharlieb, of University College; and Emily Tomlinson, of Girton College, Cambridge. For the first B.Sc. examination there were also two ladies, viz.:—Ellen Martha Watson, placed in the first division, and Catherine Alice Raisin, in the second division. The Apothecaries' Hall of London is the only other medical institution where females are admitted to this examination.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY.—The *Citizen* says:—"The ground of the first improvement which has been carried out in the City under the operation of the Artisans' Dwellings Act, and which is known as the Golden-lane scheme, is now cleared, and will shortly be offered for sale. Concurrent with the demolition and removal of the old structures has been the widening of the thoroughfare itself. Golden-lane has latterly grown much in importance, and had already been improved by the vestry of the adjoining parish, St. Luke's. The roadway of that portion of the thoroughfare within the jurisdiction of the City was not more than about 15ft. in breadth; indeed, in some parts, only 8ft.; but under its improved condition a well-paved roadway some 50ft. wide has been thrown open for public traffic. The net cost of the improvement to the ratepayers will be 260,000*l.*

THE REV. NEWMAN HALL AND MISS WYATT.—A letter written by the Rev. A. H. Wyatt, from Cross Vicarage, Gloucester, to the editor of the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, states that the relations of his sister with the Rev. Newman Hall were approved of not only by her parents, but by Mrs. Hall herself; that her visits to Mr. Hall ceased when his wife left her home; "and," adds Mr. Wyatt, "the correspondence shortly afterwards ceased, because Mr. Hall, solicitous for my sister's reputation, which was unscrupulously assailed by his wife, deemed it advisable and better that it should cease. Afterwards they seldom met, and never except in the presence and society of others. What little interchange and communication passed between them passed through my brother. My brother conveyed the very occasional communications which they had to make to one another." Mr. Wyatt says that Mr. Hall never made any intimation, much less any proposal of marriage to his sister. In conclusion the writer says that Mary Wyatt is not the lady whom Mr. Hall "has in his eye," but someone else, whose name was, he says, "blurted out" in court by Mrs. Hall. Mr. Wyatt adds:—"The Right Hon. the President said, 'In all the long letters which have been produced and read during this trial, in no one instance do I find Mr. Hall departing from that line of conduct which the high-minded man would pursue. He has dealt with his wife with the tenderest consideration.' In this triumph of his virtue my sister participates."

A WINDFALL FOR JEFFERSON DAVIS.—A lady of Mississippi has bequeathed her plantation there, and plantations in Louisiana, as well as other property, the whole being valued at 250,000*dols.* (50,000*l.*), to Jefferson Davis. The will is of the date of eighteen months ago. The testator sets forth that she owes no obligation of any sort whatever to any relative of her own, that she had done all she could for them during her life. She adds:—"I, therefore, give and bequeath all my property, wherever situated, wholly and entirely to my most honoured and esteemed friend, Jefferson Davis, ex-President of the Confederate States; and I hereby constitute him my sole heir, executor, and administrator. I do not intend to share in the ingratitude of my country towards the man who is, in my eyes, the highest and noblest in existence." The newspapers state that Mr. Davis has for some time past been a resident at the house of the lady in question, Mrs. Dorsey, and that he had begun of late to assume the management of the place. Ten days ago he presented the will for probate in one of the courts of New Orleans, thus expressing his determination to accept the bequest to the exclusion of the natural heirs. These heirs, it is understood, are about to contest the will on the ground of undue influence, and also the alleged fact of mental derangement being hereditary in the family of the testator, but there does not seem to be much probability of Mr. Davis's failing to secure the bequest.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.—An influential meeting, numerously attended, was held at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, on Friday, in order that the object of the Farmers' Alliance might be explained. Mr. J. S. Gardiner, of Borley Lodge, presided. Mr. James Howard, chairman of the Alliance, said its objects were to secure the better representation of tenant-farmers in Parliament, to stimulate improved cultivation of the soil, to encourage greater freedom in the disposal of its produce, to obtain the abolition of class privileges, to promote the reform of the Game Laws, to obtain the alteration of all legal presumptions operating unfairly against tenant-farmers, to secure to ratepayers their legitimate share in county government, and to obtain a fair apportionment of local burdens between landlord and tenant. After an animated discussion, in which Mr. Courtauld, M.P., took part, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—"That this meeting, having heard the objects of the Farmers' Alliance, approves of the formation of the association, and recommends farmers and others interested in the promotion of agricultural reforms to become members and so increase its influence." Among those who apologised for absence were Lord Eustace Cecil, M.P., Colonel Makins, M.P., Colonel Brise, M.P., Mr. Baring, M.P., and Mr. Round, M.P.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC.—The extent in which the general public has felt the intensity of the prevalent trading depression is shown by the marked falling off in the number of railway journeys on some of the chief lines. The Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway has felt this during the past half year in very great degree. In first-class passengers it carried 54,501 fewer in the last six months than it did in the corresponding six months of last year; in second-class passengers it carried 64,405 fewer; and in third-class passengers it had a decrease of 613,852. The total number of passengers (exclusive of season ticket-holders) it carried was in the first six months of 1878, 5,129,715; and that number fell to 4,396,957 in the corresponding six months of the present year. It will be noticed that the declension in the number of first-class passengers was the largest in proportion to its total, the falling off being at the rate of 28 per cent.; in the second-class passengers the falling off was not much above 20 per cent.; and in the third-class passengers the declension was about 13 per cent. on the much larger total of passengers by that class. It is shown, therefore, that the higher classes of traffic were the most markedly affected, and that there was a serious loss of traffic in all classes. In part this may have been caused by the prolongation of the past winter and the inclement

spring; but it is chiefly due to the intense dullness in trade, and the lessened earnings of all classes.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

ANTI-MISSIONARY DISTURBANCES IN CHINA.—The *North China Herald* publishes a proclamation issued by the Footai of Hunan severely condemning the policy of anonymous placards inciting to acts of violence towards foreigners, and threatening offenders with punishment. In publishing this document the Shanghai paper says:—"It may be remembered that some months ago two missionaries, arriving at the provincial capital, Chang-sha, found the city in a state of disturbance owing to inflammatory placards posted over the place. So excited had the people become that it was with some difficulty the visitors escaped with their lives. The style of Hunan placards is only too well known. It was there that that infamous production, the 'Death-blow to corrupt doctrines,' made its first appearance; and ever since then the people have vied with one another in hostility to foreigners of every description. It is therefore with greater pleasure that we give publicity to the proclamation of the new Footai, which reached us through private hands, but from Chinese official sources; and this pleasure is increased by the fact that the proclamation has been issued without giving time for the usual amount of external pressure to be brought to bear, and is, we have every reason to believe, the spontaneous production of the Chinese authorities. As one of the first expressions of an improved friendly feeling, we take an early opportunity of noticing a graceful act, and hope that with extended intercourse there will be the less occasion to remind the Chinese students and graduates of Hunan and elsewhere that their previous conduct by no means does honour to the holy doctrine of Confucius, but is in direct variance with his teachings. Since writing the above, we have learned that Shao Heng-yü, the Footai alluded to, has been superseded by Li Ming-ch'ih, the late Pu-ching-zu of Fohkien—for what reason we have to await future advices."

SECTARIAN RIOTS AT LURGAN.—A demonstration of 4,000 Home Rulers at Lurgan on Friday developed into a serious riot. A disorderly member of the procession having been arrested, a violent attempt at rescue was made. The police were ordered to charge the mob with fixed bayonets and afterwards to fire, the result being that one man was fatally shot and others were severely injured. The riots were resumed on Saturday night, owing mainly to the refusal of the magistrates to arrest Captain Redmond, who had ordered the police to fire on the rioters. The rioting began at eleven o'clock, and from the first assumed a purely party and religious aspect. Protestant shops and houses were singled out for attack, the windows were smashed and the furniture broken. The Protestants retaliated with right goodwill, and up till two o'clock on Sunday morning two mobs of so-called Christians were destroying each other's property and breaking each other's heads, while bodies of armed police, endeavouring to bring order out of the confusion, seemed to make matters worse, and had twenty of their number put *hors de combat*. One rioter had provided himself with a piece of dynamite, the explosion of which, luckily, did no further mischief than blow his own hand off. Some of the mob, too, were armed with rifles, but fortunately they were little used, and no fatal injuries are reported. The peace of the district, however, is by no means assured. Twelve Protestants, forming a majority of the coroner's jury at the inquest on the body of the lad John Furphy, shot dead by the police in this riot, found that his death was caused by a gun-shot wound caused by a stray ball while the constabulary were firing on a riotous mob in the discharge of their duty. The remaining eleven jurors, all Roman Catholics, handed in a protest that there was no justification for the firing.

IS THE GOOD TIME COMING?—When the Parliamentary session of 1878 came to an end it was pretty confidently anticipated that our trade would show some signs, however slight, of recovery before the Lords and Commons again addressed themselves to the transaction of national business. How stands the prospect now that another year of stagnant commerce has been passed through? Without indulging in undue optimism we think the lookout is decidedly brighter than it was this time last year. Then it was doubtful whether the incipient signs of renewed industrial activity on the other side of the Atlantic were otherwise than spasmodic, but now there seems no room for questioning the reality of the American revival in trade. The *United States Economist*, a journal of repute and authority, affirms that proofs of increasing prosperity are to be seen on every hand. Railway traffic, both on the trunk and branch lines, continues steadily to improve month after month, while the iron, steel, and building industries are full of life. Whatever labour there is in the market, whether skilled or unskilled, meets with a lively demand at fairly remunerative rates, for while many long-disused blast furnaces and rolling mills are being again brought into operation, the abundant harvest, coupled with extensive reclamations of waste lands, afford plenty of employment to the rural population. Our contemporary asserts that "more houses have been built, more farms improved, and larger areas of waste land brought under cultivation within the past year than at any former period in the history of the nation." If this statement be correct, there cannot be much doubt that the prosperity of the United States has made considerable progress, and in due course of time this improvement will inevitably produce a

stronger demand for British manufactures. There are some faint indications that this influence is already beginning to operate to our advantage. The importations into New York from Europe during the first seven months of the present year have been largely in excess of those during the same period in 1878, and the chief part of the increase is reported to have been in English commodities.—*The Globe*.

Gleanings.

Rector: "Those pigs of yours are in fine condition, Jarvis." Jarvis: "Yes, sure, they be. Ah, sur, if we was all on us on'y as fit to die as them are, we'd do."

"Tom," said an acquaintance of his who met him one evening, "Who did you say our friend B— married?" "Well, he married 40,000; I forget her other name!"

The Paris *Rappel*, noticing the Ministerial fish dinner at Greenwich, says:—"They were served with the luxurious whitebait (plural), which cost 1*l.* per portion."

The colour of dark blue wool always comes off more or less both in wear and washing. To keep it from running add a dessert-spoonful of salt in the last water in which the stockings are washed.

The *Echo* hints that Lord Beaconsfield may have been afraid to attend the whitebait dinner on Wednesday last lest Mr. Tracy Turnerelli, disguised as a waiter, might crown him with the golden wreath.

Teacher: "What part of speech is the word 'egg'?" Boy: "Noun, sir." "What is its gender?" "Can't say, sir, till it's hatched." "Well, then, my lad, you can't tell me the case?" "Oh, yes, sir—the shell!"

PRESIDENT HAYES IN A FIX.—A desperate attempt—happily bloodless in its results—is stated to have been recently made by a young American lady to secure the heart and hand of President Hayes. Miss Emmeline Noble, of Indianapolis, penetrated by the conviction that it was her destiny to take rank "with and after" the Queen-Consorts of the Old World, solicited an audience of His Excellency, and was, in due course of time, admitted to a personal interview with him in the White House. Scarcely had she entered the President's presence—at least so runs the story—when she threw her arms round his neck, clasped him passionately to her bosom, and whispered in his ear, "President, I am come to marry you!" Mr. Hayes, gently disengaging himself from her fervent embrace, observed that it was irremediably out of his power to meet her views in the matrimonial direction, as he had already pledged the nuptial vow to another lady. Miss Noble, however, was not to be put off with what she scornfully designated as "a paltry excuse for passing a slight upon her," and insisted with alarming vehemence that a minister should be produced upon the spot, and the marriage ceremony performed without the least delay. Perceiving that she was not to be trifled with, the President craved her permission to leave the room for a second or two, in order to fetch an ecclesiastic, and the necessary wedding witnesses. Having effected his escape, he gave orders that the enterprising Emmeline should be removed with all possible gentleness, and that the police should telegraph to her relatives informing them of her whereabouts, and requesting them to "hurry up" and take charge of her. A few hours later Miss Noble, confided to the custody of her natural guardians, left Washington for Indianapolis in deep disappointment, her hopes frustrated, her ambitions shattered. She was afterwards placed in an asylum, it being found that she suffered from an affection of the brain rather than of the heart. The President is now somewhat suspicious of ladies who want to see him.

A DICTIONARY OF AMERICANISMS.—As there are people who can admire the poetry of Burns, but to whom his Doric dialect is perplexing without a glossary, so there are lovers of Transatlantic literature in this part of the world who are suddenly brought to a standstill in their enjoyment by some curious "locution" or phrase, or nickname plain to the American mind, but which they are utterly unable to comprehend. When they hear of the "Hub of the Universe," they never dream that Boston is meant. Porkopolis, to them, does not represent Cincinnati, nor Manhattan, New York; nor when the graphic and elegant expression "he is sound on the goose" is heard, do they quite grasp that it means that somebody is politically honest. Neither are they awake to the sly humour of the cry, "Sayshay from this kebosh," as emphatic equivalent for that dull invitation, "Oblige by leaving the premises." For the benefit of persons ignorant of rudimentary "Americaneese," a learned and persevering scholiast has compiled a manual of the less known words in ordinary use, so as to aid the tourist who may favour the great United States with his presence. Very interesting it is to look over this admirable little tract, and note down the delicious vagaries of slang, and the luxuriant backwoods' ramifications from inoffensive verbal roots. Amusing it is, too, to con over the list of *sobriquets* by which the good folk in different sections of the mighty Republic are called—so amusing, indeed, that we make no apology for transcribing it in full. The inhabitants of Alabama are called *Lizards*; of Arkansas, *Tooth-picks*; of California, *Goldhunters*; of Colorado, *Rovers*; of Connecticut, *Wooden Nutmegs*; of Delaware, *Musk-rats*; of Florida, *Fly-up-the-Creeks*; of Georgia, *Buzzards*; of Illinois, *Suckers*;

of Indiana, *Hoosiers*; of Iowa, *Hawkeyes*; of Kansas, *Jawhawkers*; of Kentucky, *Corn Crackers*; of Louisiana, *Creoles*; of Maine, *Foxes*; of Maryland, *Craw-Thumpers*; of Michigan, *Wolvennies*; of Minnesota, *Gophers*; of Mississippi, *Tadpoles*; of Missouri, *Pikes*; of Nebraska, *Bugeaters*; of Nevada, *Sage Hens*; of New Hampshire, *Granite Boys*; of New Jersey, *Blues or Clam Catchers*; of New York, *Knickerbockers*; of North Carolina, *Tar Heads or Juckoes*; of Ohio, *Buckeyes*; of Oregon, *Webfeet*; of Pennsylvania, *Penances and Leatherheads*; of Rhode Island, *Gun Flints*; of South Carolina, *Weasels*; of Tennessee, *Whelps*; of Texas, *Beefheads*; of Vermont, *Green Mountain Boys*; of Virginia, *Beadles*; and of Wisconsin, *Badgers*.—*Daily Telegraph*.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

STEVENS.—July 27, the wife of the Rev. Eben Stevens, Congregational minister, Lostwithiel, of a son—Horace Wardlaw.

MARRIAGES.

ANGUS—FRANKLIN.—August 7, at Victoria-road Church, Leicester, by the father of the bridegroom, Charles Joseph Angus, eldest son of the Rev. Joseph Angus, D.D., The College, Regent's Park, London, to Margaret Noble Franklin, fourth daughter of George B. Franklin, Stoneygate School, Leicester.

TATHAM—JACKSON.—August 7, at Crossbrook Congregational Church, by the Rev. D. Davies, B.A., assisted by Rev. H. Storer Toms, of Enfield, William Tatham, Spring Terrace, Rochdale, second son of John Tatham, Esq., J.P., Moss Cottage, Rochdale, to Bertha Louisa Jackson, second daughter of Rev. J. Oswald Jackson, of Theobalds, Waltham Cross, N. No cards.

BAYNTUN—DUMSDAY.—August 12, at Park Chapel, Hornsey, by the Rev. John Corbin, James Charles Bayntun, of Rotherfield-street, Islington, to Hannah Maria Dumsday, of Tottenham-lane, Hornsey.

JOHNSTON—FALDING.—August 13, at Masbro' Chapel, Sheffield, by the Rev. Dr. Falding and Rev. Thos. Nicholson, the Rev. John Johnston, minister of Montague-street Church, Blackburn, to Edith Elizabeth, third daughter of the Rev. Dr. Falding, Principal of Rotherham College.

CARLISLE—WILLETT.—August 13, at Above Bar Congregational Church, Southampton, by the Rev. Andrew Reed, B.A., of St. Leonards, the Rev. Henry Hermann Carlisle, LL.B., to Jessie, daughter of the late Henry Willett, Esq., of Norwich.

PAYNE—MILLS.—August 13, at the Congregational Church, Horton-lane, Bradford, by the Rev. J. R. Campbell, D.D., assisted by the Rev. J. G. Miall, George Speke Payne, M.R.C.S., of Peterborough, eldest son of G. Payne, Esq., M.D., of East Peckham, to Frances Bessie Eva Mills, second daughter of Thomas Mills, Esq., Fletton Tower, Peterborough.

DEATH.

COOKE—July 30, at Bournemouth, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health, the Rev. Albert Cooke, B.A., aged 37 years.

EPPE'S GLYCERINE JUJUBES.—CAUTION!—These effective and agreeable confections are sold by most Chemists; by others, however, attempts are often made at substitution. We therefore deem it necessary to caution the public that they can only be obtained in boxes, 6*d.* and 1*s.*, labelled JAMES EPPE and Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, 48, Thread-needle-street, and 170, Piccadilly, London.

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